

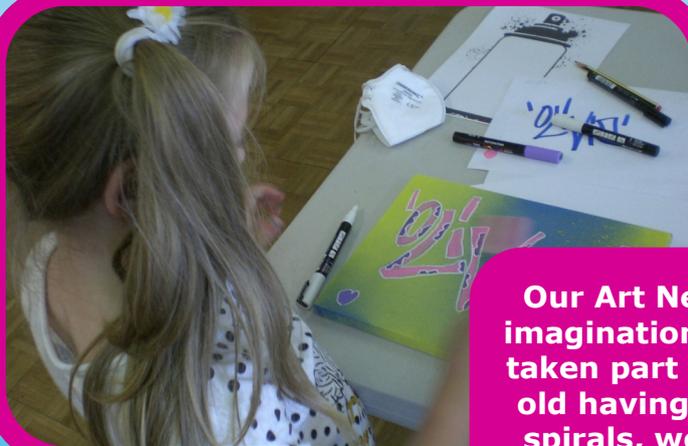
Neighbour Leigh

Leigh Neighbours Project news

August/September 2014



Go pom-poms, go!
Three cheers for



Our Art Neighbourhood has clearly captured the imagination of local residents! Lots of people have taken part in the workshops, with both young and old having a go at creating graffiti art, crocheted spirals, woolly spiders and colourful pom-poms! Read more about it on page 4 or visit our website at www.lnpb.org.uk

INSIDE In this issue, read about some of our local heroes, find out about a campaign to tackle grot spots and discover what residents really think of their town.

So, what do you think of your neighbourhood?

Four years ago, in the early days of the Leigh Neighbours project, we asked residents what they thought of their area. Well, we recently repeated this exercise just to see whether perceptions have changed. Working in partnership with PCSOs, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, local councillors and Wigan Council, we knocked on doors along Glebe Street, Gordon Street and Selwyn Street, and asked residents what they think today. Here's what some of you told us...

"Litter, dog poop and fly-tipping"

Rubbish at several locations has now been removed by the council and the PCSOs are also conducting specific dog fouling patrols. Leigh Neighbours are planning to hold a clean-up campaign aimed at tackling local grot spots, so tell us where you'd like us to target by emailing grotspots@lnpb.org.uk



"A greater sense of community"

The Big Lunch was just one of the many projects

which some residents mentioned when describing a growing sense of community spirit. Some also spoke of 'more awareness about what's going on in the community' because of the Leigh Neighbours newsletter, which has been keeping residents informed about ways to get involved.



"Youths causing annoyance"

Increased police patrols are in place to deter those few who are responsible for the nuisance and also to reassure residents affected by anti-social behaviour (ASB). Letters have been sent to the parents of those responsible and police have also addressed pupils at several local primary schools. Altogether this has led to a reduction in calls relating to Anti-Social Behaviour.

"There's drugs in our community"

As a direct result of information received from residents, 4 drugs warrants have recently been executed at various addresses. Police are urging people who are concerned about unusual smells or suspicious comings and goings at properties on their street to call 101 or to speak anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Members of the Leigh Neighbours Board will soon be meeting to discuss these results and how to incorporate them into the project plan by, for instance, investing in greening projects, diversionary activities for young people and a range of community events.

Susan Gredecki, Joint Chair of Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board, says: "We can't promise to solve all the problems in the area. What we're here to do is to bring added value. We've been entrusted by local residents to ensure our area is not forgotten and be your voice when you need it. Why not consider working with us? I promise you'll meet inspiring people, learn new skills and feel a sense of accomplishment that comes from making a real difference."

Insp Liz Sanderson, Neighbourhood Inspector for Wigan East, adds: "The Leigh West Neighbourhood Policing Team and our partner agencies continue to work together to tackle problems that affect our communities. We are fully aware of the issues that affect the quality of life for local people and we will continue to make a real impact on the levels of crime being committed in the Leigh West area." Read more at www.gmp.police.uk

Local heroes yes, we're talking about YOU!



It seems the idea behind **The Big Lunch** has caught on with people young and old alike! And why not? We all know that food brings people together!

And so do the pupils, staff and parents of **St John's CE Infant School** who recently hosted a fabulous summer fair, BBQ and strawberry tea party for the local community. And it doesn't end there. All funds raised on the strawberry tea stall were donated to Breast Cancer Awareness - that's a whopping £70! Well done to all!



Meanwhile, the fun continued over at **As in Eden** where Leigh Neighbours Board member Janice Eckersley organised a Big Lunch event with a difference... "I love to up-cycle," says Jan, "so for my lunch, I wanted to show the importance of recycling in an entertaining way. Twenty children attended on the day, and as well as enjoying a healthy packed lunch, they each learnt how to make bright grass heads, butterflies and hanging spiders using old plastic lemonade bottles and a variety of cheap craft materials. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and hopefully it showed that you don't have to fork out lots of money to keep the little ones happy!"



Another local champion is **Brandon Downs** of Gordon Street. The ten year old recently raised £457 for the **Muir Maxwell Epilepsy Trust** whilst running in the BUPA Great Manchester run. Mum Michelle says: "Brandon chose this charity because of his own personal experience with the condition. The charity supports children with severe epilepsy and distributes free alarms to families struggling to cope with their child's nocturnal seizures. We're all so proud of him!" For more information about the charity, visit www.muirmaxwelltrust.com



Keep Britain Tidy is 60 years old this year - and they're marking the event with a Big Jubilee Tidy Up!

Since it kicked off in 2008, the annual Big Tidy Up has seen more than half a million people in more than 250,000 groups collect nearly 120,000 bags of rubbish.

And this October, Keep Britain Tidy want their Jubilee event to be the biggest and best ever. Visit the Big Tidy Up website to sign up, order your kit, download posters and share ideas! For more information, go to: www.thebigtidyup.org



If your school, community group, residents association, uniform group or social club is planning a litter pick in October, let us know what you're doing and we'll publicise it on our website, too!

What's on?

Hanging Basket Workshop

Following the popular hanging basket workshop in the Spring, Leigh Neighbours is hosting a second workshop on Friday 19th September (10am-12noon) in the community garden at the top of Gordon Street. So dig out your trowel and learn how to craft a hanging basket that will be the envy of all your neighbours!



Young People's Annual Event **DETAILS COMING SOON!**

Leigh Film Society launches

The new Leigh Film Society launches on Friday 26th September at 7pm at the Turnpike with a viewing of 'Billy Elliott' to mark the 30th anniversary of the miners strike. Membership is £12 for 12 months and guests pay £3 on the night. Strictly over 16s only. Light refreshments are available at 50p or you can bring your own wine! For more information, visit: www.leighfilmsociety.com

The faces behind Leigh Neighbours...



**Jan Eckersley
Board Member**

"As a mum, I know just how important it is to invest in our kids' futures. We need to find ways to channel our young peoples' talents, provide positive role models, and create exciting opportunities for their growth and personal development. That's why I got involved in Leigh Neighbours, so I could help make a positive difference for their future."

Independent Domestic Abuse Centre

Due to funding issues, WAVE Domestic Abuse Centre recently closed its doors on its Railway Road operation. Fortunately, a new charity, IDAC, has been formed to take over the running of the 24 hour helpline and outreach services from a base at Olympic House in Platt Bridge. Chris Ashton of IDAC says: "We've been very lucky to find another site in Platt Bridge but we realise that even travelling 5 miles to access help is far from ideal. So once we secure sufficient funds, we're hoping to be back in Leigh in the not too distant future. In the meantime, I want victims to know that we're available 24 hours a day over the phone and we will come to you wherever possible to meet face to face at a variety of suitable locations in and around Leigh."

IDAC's 24 helpline is 01942 262270.

[continued from page 1] Project Manager, Martyn Lucas, says: "Our Art Neighbourhood has proven to be really popular, attracting hundreds of local residents over the past 6 weeks. Altogether, we've laid on more than 70 workshops covering urban art, yarn bombing and digital photography. And now the work begins on transforming areas across Leigh with examples of YOUR art, showcased on huge billboards across the town. It's going to be amazing!" To see pictures from the workshops, please visit our website at www.lnpb.org.uk



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