

Budding gardeners are sprouting up all over Leigh!



The Leigh Neighbours hanging basket workshops are certainly *growing* in popularity with green-fingered residents. And fans of our twice-yearly events seem to be getting ever younger!

Two year old Oliver Taylor came with his mum, Joanne, and grandad, Ron, to two of our workshops - at the Community Gardens in Gordon Street and at our workshop at Sacred Heart Parish Centre. "He absolutely loved it!" says Joanne. "His face lit up when he saw all the flowers and he's in his element getting his hands dirty filling the baskets. It's a lovely idea and one that all members of the family can get involved in together."

If you fancy giving it a go, we're laying on more workshops in the autumn. The details are:

- **Friday 25th September at the Community Garden on Gordon Street.**
- **Friday 2nd October at Sacred Heart Parish Centre.**
- **Saturday 3rd October at Kingsleigh Methodist Church.**

Just bring a basket and we'll provide the rest. No need to book. See you there!



News from the Chair, Susan Gredecki

When we first met Aaron Block, our apprentice with Groundwork, all members of the Leigh Neighbours board were genuinely impressed by his maturity and his commitment to learning. Eighteen months on, and we're absolutely delighted with how this promising young man is doing. We're now hoping to find a second young person to sponsor. And if you want to find out what's involved in being an apprentice landscaper, who better to tell you than Aaron himself? So, that's what he's doing! We've produced a film showcasing this talented young man at work.

So, if you think you've got what it takes, and you'd like to find out what the role involves, visit You Tube online and look for the film *Groundwork Apprenticeships*. You can also find links to the application form on our website www.lnpb.org.uk but be quick as the deadline is fast approaching!

In other news, plans are coming along on another idea we're developing in partnership with Groundwork. We're currently looking at the feasibility of investing some of the Big Local money in the purchase and renovation of a local property which, once it's done up, will provide value for money rental accommodation. Other branches of Groundwork have successfully carried out similar projects in other parts of the NW and it fits in with our housing agenda as well as ensuring empty properties don't become eyesores and magnets for anti-social behaviour. We hope to be able to tell you more in the next issue!



Leigh Neighbours PROJECT Wigan Council



FREE SUMMER FUN DAY For young people

Leigh Civic Square
(outside the Town Hall)

Saturday
22nd August 2015
11am-4pm

Food & drink available

Meet your local services & find out what's going on in your area!

Ramp Riders mobile skate park and free competition

Climbing wall

Information and advice

Arts and crafts

Share your views

All welcome!

For more information contact:
01942 486332



Organised by young people from Leigh Youth Voice youth council and Leigh Neighbours.

No such thing as a free lunch? Think again!

As part of the Big Lunch, we helped local people lay on free events to bring the community together, including a tea party at Sacred Heart Primary School and a teatime presentation by young people at the Turnpike.



Our contribution also helped the ladies of the bingo club that meet every week at Kingsleigh Methodist to lay on a tasty hotpot lunch for all the regulars. And on that day, it really was a full house!

There's more pictures on our website and Facebook pages. Thanks to everybody who took part in the Big Lunch. Roll on 2016!

Resident's Fund

It's a fund of money. For residents. And it's waiting for YOU!

Piece of cake. Easy squeeze. Child's play. A breeze. A cinch. A walk in the park. In fact, it's plain simples!

That pretty much describes how easy it is to apply for up to £500 from the Leigh Neighbours Resident's Fund. So, what have you got to lose? All you need is an idea around something which benefits your local neighbourhood... a plan of action on how you'll deliver it... and some energy to make it happen.

"All we expect is for the idea to meet one of the challenges featured in our community plan, which you can read in detail on our website," explains Susan Gredecki. "And of course whatever we fund needs to benefit residents who live in our project area. The projects we've funded up to now have been really diverse, so don't be scared of being adventurous. We're open to all sorts of ideas!"

And these are the kinds of projects we've recently funded...



◀ Chris Fitzsimmons and Jan Harney from community enterprise **As in Eden** on Walmesley Road applied to the Residents Fund so they could install a new weather-proof noticeboard outside their premises. "It's the most effective way of advertising our events and promoting what we do," says Jan. "The application process was quick and easy, and we had the cheque within 6 weeks. I wish everything was as straightforward. Thanks Leigh Neighbours!" There's lots of activities going on for the whole community at As in Eden. You can find out more on Jan's Facebook page.

When a sponsor dropped out, **Friends of Lilford Park** were keen to secure financial support to ensure their centenary celebrations could still go ahead as planned. David Sykes of Friends of Lilford Park says: "Leigh Neighbours stepped up and helped make this event happen, for which we are really grateful. We wanted to mark this important occasion by organising a fun event that local people would remember with pride, and I think we did just that!"



Rainbow Rhymes and Rhythm, a group for parents and toddlers, received funding towards a Big Lunch get-together which was held in June at As in Eden. Organiser Valerie Hulme says: "Parents chat together at our sessions as well as taking part in musical and craft activities with their kiddies. It's a lovely atmosphere. Our being able to provide free refreshments as part of the Big Lunch simply added to the sense of occasion! "

iRoam is an online tool which offers a sneak preview of public buildings and venues to users who want to reassure themselves about accessibility issues. "We produce video clips and detailed information on all aspects of access, providing valuable insight for people who have a disability or experience anxiety when entering unfamiliar places," explains director of iRoam, Adam Barrett. "We're delighted to have secured some funding from Leigh Neighbours which has enabled us to invest in film equipment to make our service more efficient."



When Warren Done of **Atherton and Leigh Foodbank** approached us with the idea of piloting an overnight shelter for homeless people, we agreed to help straight away. "Your grant enabled us to invest in beds and linen for the shelter," explains Warren. "The feedback we had from the pilot was so positive that we hope to develop it further this Winter. And who knows, hopefully we'll be able to get more support from Leigh Neighbours. Thanks for having so much confidence in us!"

For a Resident's Fund application form, visit www.lnpb.org.uk or contact the Leigh Neighbours Project Manager, Stephen Ruffley, via email: Stephen@lnpb.org.uk



CALLING TIME ON CRIME

Have your say!

Leigh Neighbours will shortly be hosting a public event in partnership with the police and other community safety agencies to give residents a chance to voice their concerns about crime in their area.

The conference on Wednesday 5th August is being held at Kingsleigh Methodist Church Youth Centre from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

PCSOs from the Wigan East Neighbourhood Policing Team will be joined by other agencies including Wigan Council, Restorative Solutions and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

"Residents will be able to discuss any crime and community safety related issues which affect their family, school, street and neighbourhood," explains Leigh Neighbours chair, Susan Gredecki.

"People may want to talk to us about a grot spot that needs cleaning up or to suggest ideas on how to tackle a specific issue around anti-social behaviour. Crime and community safety is one of the key priorities which we were tasked to look at by local residents. So I really hope that people will make time and come to talk to us."

Inspector Liz Sanderson adds: "We've had some significant successes recently in tackling crime across the area, due in great part to the quality of the information which local people have given to us.

"You know better than anybody what's happening on your doorstep, and the intelligence you pass on to us can be invaluable. You may know of properties down your street which are magnets for criminal and anti-social behaviour. They cause untold misery and we want to help to put a stop to it.

"Don't suffer in silence if you're affected by crime in your community. Talk to us in confidence and tell us your concerns."

For more advice and information, please visit www.gmp.police.uk



The **BIG BIKE** Revival.

The winner of our bike competition, Declan of Fairhurst Street, has kindly offered to donate his prize of an up-cycled bike from Wigan-based Gearing Up to a worthy cause - so watch this space!

Meantime, here's a date for your diary... To encourage local cyclists to BE SEEN, BE SAFE this autumn, we've asked Simon Dale from Gearing Up to host another event for us. On Saturday 17th October from 10am to 3pm at Sacred Heart Primary School, Simon will be fitting FREE reflectors on bikes and ensuring they're ready for the winter months. Our friendly PCSOs will also be there advising on bike security. Plus, expect lots of giveaways, too!



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 or email info@lnpb.org.uk

Leigh Neighbours PROJECT

Local Trust
creating
lasting
change