





Have a crafty
Christmas!

Whilst some people might be looking forward to a white Christmas this year, we hope homes across the town will be festooned in all the colours of the rainbow!



Leigh Neighbours is hosting a series of free Christmas Craft Family Workshops, where we'll be showing people how to make all sorts of seasonal gifts, decorations and keepsakes, using a raft of materials and an entire spectrum of stickyback plastic!



Jan Eckersley from Leigh Neighbours says: "Our craft workshops are always great fun for the family. They're aimed at kids of all ages!

We'll provide the materials, and there's no need to book – just drop in!"

Children need to be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, or responsible adult. The workshops will be held at As in Eden on Walmesley Road and run from 6.30-7.30pm for the next 3 Wednesday evenings: 25th November, 2nd December and 9th December.



On your bike, Dad!



Markus with his parents, Marie and Phil, pictured with PCSO Barrie Jones, John Gredecki of Leigh Neighbours (centre) and Simon Dale from Gearing Up (right)

When Markus Symonds mastered riding his bike this summer nobody could have been prouder than his folks. But what his dad, Phil, didn't count on was suddenly finding himself back in the saddle, too — after nearly twenty years!

"It's years since I rode a bike", explains Phil. "But when Markus started riding this summer, I could see he was having so much fun, I found myself thinking it would be a good idea to invest in a bike for me, as well. So now, we're out every weekend together, come rain or shine."

And this new found love of cycling is all down to Markus! The 5 year old from Waterview Park in Leigh took part in Sacred Heart's Summer School, a week-long programme of fun activities and learning sponsored by Leigh Neighbours. In support, of the event, Wigan-based social enterprise, Gearing Up, donated 12 bikes to the school to give youngsters a chance to develop their confidence in the saddle.

And Markus didn't waste any time having a go! "I love riding my bike, and it's great going out on rides with my dad," he says. Phil adds: "There are obvious health benefits to cycling but it's more than that. When you're out on bike rides, you're also learning about geography, local history and the natural environment, too, so it's a great activity for the whole family to do together."

We met up with Markus and his folks at our recent **Be Seen, Be Safe** cycle event at Sacred Heart. Board member John Gredecki says: "It was a great success, another example of how the Leigh Neighbours lottery money is being put to good use in the community, by helping our kids be more visible when out and about on the roads this winter."



You can get in touch with Gearing Up at www.gearingup.org.uk





Leigh Neighbours Annual Survey 2015

Welcome to our first annual survey!

It's been 3 years since we embarked on the Leigh Neighbours project, and during this time, we've focused our efforts on putting the project 'on the map' and tackling some of the issues which local residents raised with us during our initial public consultation exercises back in 2009/10.

You may recall telling us what your main priorities were, the issues you wanted us to tackle. Well, these now form the key strands of our 10-year community plan:

- Community Facilities
- Developing Community Spirit
- Education, Employment and Training
- Finance Matters
- Health
- Housing
- Leisure
- Traffic and Transport

During the past 18 months, we believe we've made significant progress in delivering our community plan on behalf of local residents, but we've still got some way to go. And that's why we're conducting this survey, to find out from local people how you think we're doing. What do you think of Leigh Neighbours? How would you like to see us invest £1 million of National Lottery money in your area? What kind of activities would you like to get involved in? How do you think the community would most benefit from this investment?

We really value this feedback because it will help us determine the future direction of Leigh Neighbours. Don't forget, we're all learning! And nothing is written in stone. If together we find new ways of tackling the issues we've already identified, then that's how we'll proceed - and hopefully make progress. But to do so, we need your feedback, so please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to us at:

**Leigh Neighbours, c/o Citizens Advice Bureau,
6 The Avenue, Leigh, WN7 1ES.**

Alternatively, you can drop it off at Leigh Library.

There's no trick questions and no such thing as a wrong answer! And all questionnaires will be treated in strictest confidence. Your opinion matters. And it really can make a difference. So please make it count. We look forward to hearing back from you, and who knows, maybe your idea will make it into our schedule of activities in 2016!

Susan

**Susan Gredecki,
Chair of the Leigh Neighbours Project Board**



YOUR DETAILS (all personal details remain confidential and used for monitoring purposes only)

Name
Address
Postcode
Email
Telephone

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Which of the following activities and events provided by Leigh Neighbours are you familiar with? We want to measure the effectiveness of our PR and marketing so it helps us to find out whether you are aware of these activities, even if you didn't take part in them. And if you did take part, what did you think? Please circle 1-5 where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

Our Art Neighbourhood - our community art project from summer 2014



- I am not aware of this project.
- I heard about it from..... but didn't take part in it.
- I took part in this project and I rate it: 1 2 3 4 5

Please describe what you thought of Our Art Neighbourhood. Do you think it helped to build community spirit? How would you improve it?

Hanging Basket Workshops



- I am not aware of this project.
- I heard about it from..... but didn't take part in it.
- I took part in this project and I rate it: 1 2 3 4 5

Please describe what you think of our hanging basket workshops. Do you think they help to improve the community? How would you improve on them?

The Big Lunch



- I am not aware of this project.
- I heard about it from..... but didn't take part in it.
- I took part in this project and I rate it: 1 2 3 4 5

Please describe what you thought of The Big Lunch. Does it help build community spirit? How would you improve on it? Do you think we need a community wide event held in Town Hall square?

Cycle Safety workshops eg Big Bike Revival, Be Seen Be Safe



- I am not aware of this project.
- I heard about it from..... but didn't take part in it.
- I took part in this project and I rate it: 1 2 3 4 5

Please describe what you think of these cycle safety events? How would you improve on them?



What other Leigh Neighbours projects are you familiar with? And what did you think of them? eg. Our crime and community safety event, Hotpot & Bingo, etc



What are your general thoughts about Leigh Neighbours so far? Are we on the right track?



Are you aware that we have a Residents Fund which local people can apply to for funding facilities, activities, clubs, events, etc? Yes/No Is this a good idea?

How would you spend £500 in your community?



What are your main concerns about the Leigh Neighbours area? And how do you think Leigh Neighbours can help?



We already fund two apprenticeship schemes in partnership with the charity, Groundwork. We may in the future launch a bursary scheme to help local people develop new skills to support them into employment. Would this be of potential interest to any member of your household? Please give us some details...

PR, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

We'd like to measure how effective we are in getting our messages out into the community.



NeighbourLeigh News is delivered through your door 6 times a year. What do you think of the newsletter, eg content and style? Is it regular enough? What kind of stories do you like to read? What do you want to see more of?



Have you ever visited our website? www.lnpb.org.uk What do you think of it?

**Do you use social media? Daily / Weekly / Monthly / Never
Would you like to see more of our news on social media? Yes/No / Don't mind**



Do you read the local papers? Please indicate by circling which papers you read. Leigh Journal / Leigh Reporter / Leigh Observer How often?

Do you read local news on the local paper's websites?

Where else do you find out what's going on in your local community?



Leigh Neighbours currently supports a variety of local charities in our area, eg. foodbanks. Are there any charitable organisations which you think we should consider supporting?



Leigh Neighbours is keen to recognise and champion our local heroes - residents who are active in our community. Who would you like us to recognise - and why?

YOUR HOUSEHOLD

How many people in your household are:

	Male	Female				
0-10	11-18	19-25	26-45	55-65	66-75	76+

How would you describe your ethnic origin? And your religion?

How active are you in your community?

What are the main interests and hobbies of people in your household?

Would you be interested in getting involved in Leigh Neighbours?

The year in pictures!

January Trainee landscaper Aaron Block is thrilled when he is awarded funding by Leigh Neighbours to continue his apprenticeship!



February Leigh Neighbours launches Stop & Lock aimed at keeping our most vulnerable residents safer in their homes.

March As in Eden become one of many successful applicants of our Residents Fund when they bid for money to buy a new noticeboard!



May Budding gardener Oliver takes part in our first hanging basket workshop of the year!



April Brightening up the area for our Spring Clean!



June Hotpot & Bingo is a winning combination during The Big Lunch. Meanwhile, cyclists gear up for summer in the Big Bike Revival.



July Leigh Neighbours helps out Friends of Lilford Park.

September Our joint Crime & Community Safety event Calling Time on Crime is a big hit.



August Fun for young people in town hall square.



October Be Seen Be Safe helps to keep our kids safe on the roads this winter.



November Kids of all ages get crafty for Christmas!



If you'd like to join in with our events in 2016, get in touch at info@lnpb.org.uk

Happy Christmas!



CALLING TIME ON CRIME



Our recent Crime & Community Safety event attracted residents and local groups from across Leigh, keen to talk to police and council officers about their concerns relating to all kinds of anti-social behaviour — including neighbour nuisance and grot spots.



PCSO Gabrielle Fitzsimmons says: "A lot can be achieved through partnership working, so events such as this are useful because they bring all parties together under the one roof. It facilitates communication and helps us resolve matters quicker for local people. Residents play a significant role in helping us tackle crime and community safety issues by talking to us about their concerns. They're the people who know what's going on in their community. And all information is treated in the strictest confidence."

Susan Gredecki, chair of Leigh Neighbours, adds: "We've had some really positive feedback from residents about these surgeries so we will be holding more of them next year. If you have any issues, don't suffer in silence, come and talk to us."

That's one of an opportunity!

You told us one of your concerns for the area was the lack of opportunity for people who want to develop their skills or get back into work. Well, we took that on board and in 2014, we invested in a young school-leaver — our fabulous apprentice landscaper, Aaron Block. It's been such a resounding success that we decided to invest in a second apprenticeship scheme with Groundwork - and we're delighted to report that our newest recruit has hit the ground running!



Ian Trengove of Cook Street in Leigh recently completed his induction at Groundwork and is looking forward to a time when he'll be able to show his son Cameron the ropes. "That's my ambition, explains the 49 year old father of 3. "I'd love to go into business with my son, so this opportunity will give me the skills, qualifications and confidence to bring me closer to achieving that goal." So far, Ian has been working on a variety of projects across the region, including Landscaping the grounds of Wigan & Leigh Hospice. "I'm working towards an NVQ in Landscape Design which involves both practical and academic training. I've always been hands-on in my previous jobs, so I'm not phased by much. I'm relishing the challenge and I'm really excited about making a difference for local people."

John Gredecki of Leigh Neighbours says: "It's not just young people we want to support through our apprenticeship scheme, it's anybody who shows a will to get on in life. We were impressed with Ian's determination and we look forward to hearing how he progresses in 2016."

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 our 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, environmental projects, tackling crime and community safety issues, training opportunities, activities for young people and community spirit. If you would like to find out more, go to www.lnpb.org.uk or email info@lnpb.org.uk