



**Don't be left in the dark! Leigh Neighbours Project urges cyclists to Be Seen, Be Safe!**

## Be Seen Be Safe

**Campaign to keep our kids safer in the saddle**

**Leigh Neighbours recently hosted an event aimed at helping junior cyclists stay safe on our roads over the dark, damp months of Winter and early Spring.**

Be Seen Be Safe was held at Leigh Central Primary School and organised in partnership with PCSOs from **Greater Manchester Police** and Wigan-based social enterprise, **Gearing Up**, which specialises in recycling and refurbishing old bikes. The free event was an opportunity for young cyclists to hear some useful advice on road safety and basic bike maintenance, as well as to have their bikes given the once over, and to claim some useful freebies including bells and novelty bike reflectors.

Susan Gredecki, Chair of Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board, says: "Leigh Neighbours is all about making a difference in our community at a grass roots level. Many of our projects appeal to residents because they meet everyday challenges and address issues which matter to local people. Be Seen Be Safe is a prime example. What can be more important than helping children be more visible, street-savvy and road-aware?" [continued overleaf]



**Above: PCSO Barrie Jones pictured with some junior cyclists. Below: Simon Dale from Gearing Up gives some pointers on basic bike maintenance to an attentive audience. Below Right: Simon at work!**



Continued...

"We organised the event specifically at this time of year to give some pointers to those who received a new bike as a Christmas gift, although it was open to anybody in the area who wanted to have their bike serviced. What we wanted to do is to encourage young cyclists to have a greater appreciation of the dangers on our roads and of the importance of being visible and attentive when riding a bike. And I'm confident this is what we achieved."

Susan adds: "Previous events we've organised along these lines have proven very popular with cyclists of all ages. I'm delighted that, together with our friends from Greater Manchester Police and Gearing Up, we met with around 15 cyclists from tots to teenagers and beyond. And who knows, perhaps this will go some way to preventing a serious accident in the future."

**The next FREE cycle safety roadshow is planned for Saturday 23rd April at Sacred Heart RC Primary School playground, 10.30am-2.30pm.**



## What else is going on with Leigh Neighbours in 2016?

**There are so many ways to get involved in your community in 2016! Whether you want to make new friends, make a difference, or just make lunch, here's a few dates for the diary to kick off with! Keep up to date about all our activities at [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk)**



Half Term needn't be stressful! Your kids will *love* our FREE St Valentine's Day craft workshop! All materials provided. **10.30-11.30 Saturday 13th February, As in Eden on Walmesley Road.** And there's more for our creative residents later in Spring at our **Easter crafts workshop.** Learn how to put your recycled items to good use! **6.30-7.30 Wednesday 23rd March, As in Eden.**

Our popular hanging basket workshops return in the spring, and they appeal to budding gardeners of all ages! All you need to do is come along to one of our events with a basket and get it filled with plants and compost - for free!

**10am Thursday 19th May, St John's Community Garden**  
**10am Friday 20th May, Sacred Heart Parish Centre**  
**10am Saturday 21st May, Railway Rd opposite the old college**



Get together in June over some tasty tucker as part of the **BIG LUNCH**, a national campaign which promotes good, old fashioned neighbourliness! If you'd like to lay on an event, whether it's a tea party, a BBQ or anything else you fancy, we may be able to provide match funding. Follow our Facebook page for more details!

# Caring in the Community

Leigh Neighbours is proud to support local volunteers, voluntary groups and charities who work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of local people. As the new kids on the block, we know some of these have been around a lot longer than we have! So, it makes sense to use our Big Local funding to support them in what they're already doing rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. So, here's to some of our local heroes!

## Case Study 1: Leigh Caring Kitchen

**"Serve the hungry. Feed the soul."**

Leigh Neighbours recently lent its support to Leigh Caring Kitchen, a facility for homeless people based in Leigh Pentecostal Church in Ullswater Street. The facility, which relies entirely on donations and volunteers, is open on Monday and Friday evenings to provide food and shelter to the homeless and those struggling on benefits. And Leigh Neighbours isn't alone in its endorsement. Lisa Darlington from OneStopCarShop in Astley recently provided them with a van!

Anne Crompton of Caring Kitchen says: "I mentioned that we were struggling picking up our regular food donations in our own cars. In no time at all, Lisa organised for us to take delivery of a van, and even arranged for local company SX Designs to sort the graphics out free of charge. She's like a fairy godmother. We are truly grateful to all our sponsors including OneStopCarShop and Leigh Neighbours for their valued support, without which we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do."

**Pictured: Anne Crompton (seated in the van) receives the keys from Lisa Darlington from One StopCarShop(left)**



## Case Study 2: Atherton & Leigh Shelter of Hope

**"Nourishing food and a warm bed for the night."**

This simple formula is what lies behind the success of Atherton & Leigh *Shelter of Hope*, a new pop-up 10-bed shelter for the homeless based in the Church of the Nazarene on Tyldesley Road in Atherton. Attracting homeless people from across the borough, demand for the shelter has proven so high since it was launched in early January that, sadly, some people have had to be turned away.



**Leigh Neighbours Board Members & foodbank volunteers Christine Farnworth and Anita Thorpe, with manager Warren Done.**

"It's the hardest thing to do, but we are still making a difference," says Warren Done, who created the shelter in partnership with his friend Ian Gardener. Warren, who is also the manager of Atherton & Leigh Foodbank, says: "Altogether, we've offered overnight shelter to around 30 visitors during the past few weeks. We've been overwhelmed with positive feedback. One lady said she was 'overjoyed' to feel safe, relaxed and get a good night's sleep for once, and that's just what we want to hear."

The unit is open 4-nights a week and is manned by 50 volunteers who operate on a shift basis. Homeless people are referred to the shelter and given a bed, access to shower facilities and some winter woollies, as well as a hot evening meal and a breakfast.

Referrals for the shelter can be made at the Citizens Advice Bureau, Wigan and Leigh Homes, Atherton Probation Office or through Warren, who can be contacted on 07980 881925.

Chair of Leigh Neighbours, Susan Gredecki, says: "Both of these groups work tirelessly to support some of our area's most vulnerable people, which is why we decided to channel some of our Lottery funds into these most deserving of charitable enterprises. The volunteers who give so freely of themselves are true heroes. Speaking on behalf of all Board Members, it's an honour and a privilege to support these worthwhile groups who do so much good in our community."



# CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

**CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June. And the team at Leigh Neighbours is backing it all the way!**

When Her Majesty came to the throne, litter was not the problem that it is today. Fast food packaging, plastic bottles, tin cans and cigarette butts have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, motorway verges and countryside, as well as our sense of pride.

Here in Leigh, local residents told us during our extensive consultations in the community, that litter, grot spots and environmental crime were major concerns. Over the past couple of years, we've made some headway in tackling this issue, in partnership with the council and local people. So, we're really keen to encourage as many residents, businesses, clubs, schools and uniform groups to rally around and get stuck in!



Supported by partners such as Keep Britain Tidy, Greggs Bakers and McDonalds, the big clean up is scheduled for the weekend of **March 4th, 5th and 6th.**

You can claim your **FREE litter kit worth £50** from Leigh Neighbours by emailing [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk) by **Sunday 28th February.**

The kit has everything you'll need, including litter pickers, rubbish bags, heavy duty gloves, stiff bristle brooms, sharps boxes and shovels.

Leigh Neighbours Board Member, Christine Farnworth, says: "This is a fantastic campaign which is right up our street! We're keen to support any initiative which reflects what local people told us is important to them. We thrilled with the response we've already had from local residents, partners, schools and uniform groups. Together, I'm sure we'll make a real difference to our patch. So come on, claim your litter kit and Clean for the Queen - and for your community, too!"

You can also register your interest in the initiative, download posters, and claim discounts on other items by signing up online at [www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk](http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk)

**Right: Leigh Neighbours Board Member and local resident Christine Farnworth pictured taking part in a previous litter pick with local volunteers.**



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](http://www.lnpb.org.uk) or email [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk)



/Leigh Neighbours



/Leigh Neighbours Big Local