




Neighbour Leigh news

September 2016



Triple whammy: Derek pictured with *In Bloom* judge Bill Burton

Derek's floral haven earns him a triple!

Wherever you turn in Derek Cunliffe's garden, there's evidence of his love of flowers in every corner. Angel trumpets and lilies vie for attention, whilst hibiscus, passion flowers and peonies compete with rhododendrons in their colourful crusade to stimulate the senses. There's no question, Derek knows a thing or two about what makes his garden grow – dedication, passion and hard graft!

So, when it came to the Leigh Neighbours *In Bloom* competition, our judges – Bill Burton of the Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board and Nick Burdekin of Wigan Council's *In Bloom* team – had a very easy job of it. They unanimously decided to award Derek, of Findlay Street, first prize in three categories: fabulous front garden, beautiful back garden and bountiful hanging basket!

Derek says: "A friend entered me into the competition without my knowledge, so I am surprised but also extremely proud and privileged to have won the Leigh Neighbours *In Bloom* competition. Gardening is very important to me, it's much more than just a hobby. I've always had an interest in it, and since I've retired I've been able to devote more time to it. It's hard work, but a labour of love, too. Gardening helps to keep me healthy, as well. I'm already planning how I will spend the prize money! I'm always on the look out for different shrubs and plants, and I'll definitely be investing in some winter and spring bulbs, too. I'm delighted that my garden gives pleasure to others, and I hope it continues to do so for many years to come."



Best public space: Kenny & Christine Farnworth in the Community Garden, with neighbour, Dominic Burrows



Kenny & Christine with Dominic, who donated a picnic table to the Jubilee Community Garden.

Leigh Neighbours In Bloom

Meanwhile, Christine Farnworth was thrilled to pick up the prize for best public space on behalf of all the people who have helped create and maintain the Jubilee Community Garden on Gordon Street.

Christine says: "The Jubilee Community Garden is a fantastic resource for local people, a space where they are welcome to just sit and have a quiet moment surrounded by nature. I'm delighted that the garden has won the *In Bloom* competition. This prize is also in recognition of the efforts of volunteers who are dedicated to maintaining the garden, people like Mark Roberts who for the past few years has mown the grass and kept the garden tidy. And people like Dominic who, without any prompting, took it on himself to buy us a picnic table. This prize is down to their efforts, too. The garden is for the community, and I'm so happy that local people take such pride in it."

Sacred Heart RC School was the runner up in best public space and hanging basket.

Bill Burton says: "This is the first year we've run Leigh Neighbours *In Bloom*, and we're really pleased with how the community has responded. We will definitely be developing the idea next year and looking at ways of building on this year's success."



Derek with Stephen Ruffley of Leigh Neighbours and Nick Burdekin from Wigan Council.



Stephen Ruffley of Leigh Neighbours and Nick Burdekin from Wigan Council.

We've got
GROT
SPOTS

in our sights

Nominate the worst eyesores in the Leigh Neighbours project area...

grotspots@lnpb.org.uk or
[Facebook/LeighNeighboursBigLocal](https://www.facebook.com/LeighNeighboursBigLocal)

... and we'll send in the big boys.

Leigh Neighbours



Our hanging baskets workshops are back!

The Leigh Neighbours hanging basket workshops are *growing* in popularity! And we're expecting our autumn workshops will to once again attract green-fingered residents from right across our patch.

There's no need to book, just turn up. But don't forget to cut out your vouchers and bring them along to claim your FREE plants and compost (and if you smile nicely, we might even throw in a FREE hanging basket, too!)

10-12 Thursday 22nd September, St John's community garden

10-12 Friday 23rd September, Sacred Heart Parish Centre

10-12 Saturday 24th September, TBC. Check Facebook for details!

Please note: This offer is only available to people who live in our project area. People from outside the area will be required to donate £5 towards the cost.



VOUCHER

This voucher entitles you to claim

FREE

plants and compost at the Leigh Neighbours hanging basket workshops.

VOUCHER

This voucher entitles you to claim

FREE

plants and compost at the Leigh Neighbours hanging basket workshops.

The Big Bike Revival was 'wheely' good fun!

Fair-weather cyclists, eager to climb back in the saddle, flocked to the second annual Big Bike Revival last month – all part of a national campaign designed to encourage people to fall back in love with cycling.

The annual campaign gave people the opportunity to dig out their neglected bike from the back of the shed and give it some TLC – all free of charge.

The campaign was once again delivered by Wigan-based social enterprise, Gearing Up - which specialises in recovering and recycling unloved or unwanted bikes - in partnership with Leigh Neighbours, who gave away some special cycling-related freebies on the day!

Simon Dale from Gearing Up says: "Cycling is a fun and sociable way of keeping fit. However, it's easy to get out of the routine and the next thing you know, your bike is gathering cobwebs and needs a thorough service. Our workshop attracted lots of cyclists whose bikes needed checking over, as well as some people who hadn't ridden for years and wanted that confidence boost to climb back in the saddle."

Rachel Harrop brought a classic Dawes Galaxy along with her - a vintage model from 1987. She says: "When I was a teenager, I rode my bike everyday and I wouldn't think twice about embarking on a fifty mile round journey. But, once my children arrived, I struggled keeping up a routine with a growing family, and it simply stopped being practical. So, I'm afraid my beloved bike was neglected for nearly twenty years.

"My children are now grown up, and I'm now a foster parent to three wonderful children. These days, I think I'll find it far easier to fit cycling into my daily routine and it's a healthy, fun pastime which we can all enjoy together. I'm really excited about getting back in the saddle. The Big Bike Revival is a fantastic initiative which gives you practical skills, confidence and an opportunity to socialise with other riders."

John Gredecki, member of Leigh Neighbours partnership board, says: "Leigh Neighbours has a track record in supporting projects which promote healthy lifestyles, encourage people to appreciate our local environment, and help to build community spirit. Big Bike revival ticks all these boxes and more.

"Cycling is a wonderful pastime for the family and summer is the perfect time to get out and about on two wheels. Here in Leigh, we're fortunate to have access to some fabulous cycle routes, so Big Bike Revival also gave people the perfect opportunity to rediscover how much fun cycling can be."



From the top: cyclist Shirley Joint with Leigh Neighbours board member, Jan Eckersley;

Sue Shaw and John Gredecki from Leigh Neighbours with Abbey and Callum Hadcroft who designed their own hi-vis vests.

Dave Graham and local cyclist, Rachel Harrop with Simon Dale of Gearing Up.

Leigh Neighbours & Gearing Up are hosting another
'BE SEEN, BE SAFE'
FREE cycle safety & bike maintenance workshop
on Saturday 8th October, 10.00am - 1.00pm
at Sacred Heart/Leigh Central school playground, Walmesley Road.
No need to book... just turn up!

Leigh Neighbours
PROJECT



/Leigh Neighbours



/Leigh Neighbours Big Local

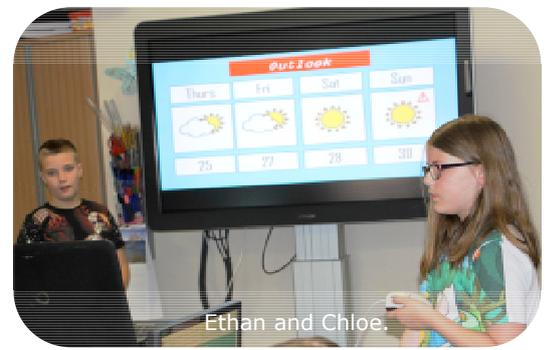
And finally... from IT classroom to TV newsroom!

The pupils of Sacred Heart RC Primary got to find out about the world of broadcasting during a special week-long Summer School, funded in part by Leigh Neighbours.

The media-themed project involved pupils taking part in a range of creative learning activities. Some of the older ones pulled together weather reports and presented them to camera, whilst the younger ones produced 2d animation projects. They also carried out research into newspaper articles, drafted news bulletins and developed skills in photography, interview techniques and storytelling.

The highlight of the week was a visit to Media City in Salford, where the children took part in a tour of the CBBC Studios, as well as a trip to the Lowry and a stop-off at the War Museum.

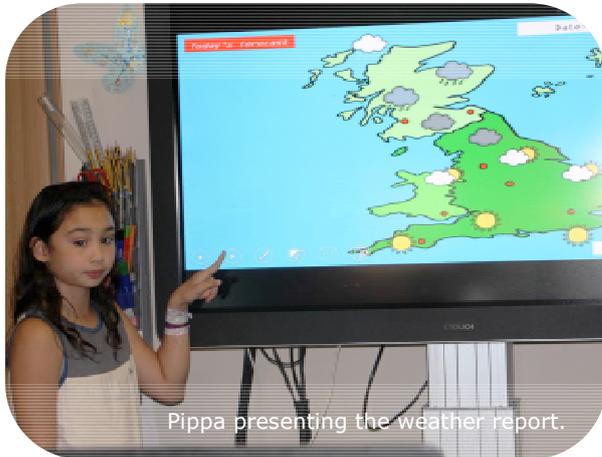
Deputy Head of Sacred Heart, Jennifer Warner, says: "We're really grateful to Leigh Neighbours for once again supporting our Summer School. This is a great opportunity for children, giving them a valuable boost to their confidence and allowing them to consolidate what they've learned before they embark on the new academic year. We've seen children make incredible progress because of their experience in Summer School, as it gives them a chance to learn in a fun and relaxed environment."



Ethan and Chloe.



Ebony, Milcah, Ruth & Pippa.



Pippa presenting the weather report.

Susan Gredecki, Chair of Leigh Neighbours, adds:

"We're delighted to help with the Summer School project. It's wonderful to hear how the children are benefitting from the experience, particularly in improving their numeracy and literacy. An extra week of learning can make a huge difference and helps pupils prepare for the start of the new term."

The Citizens Advice Bureau in Leigh is encouraging people over 50 with a defined contribution pension to come and learn about their pension options. **Pension Wise** is a free government service that helps people approaching retirement to go through their options so they can make informed decisions about their pension pot. The 45 minute appointments are tailored to the individual, taking into account the value of their pension pot and their plans for retirement. To book a Pension Wise appointment, visit Citizens Advice or call 0300 330 1001.

Leigh Neighbours PROJECT



We're looking for an
@archives
apprentice
to join our team!

Wigan Council is looking to recruit an apprentice to join its archives team.

The post will be funded by Leigh Neighbours and the successful candidate will already live in the charity's project area.

You will 'earn as you learn' and be supported towards achieving a formal qualification. You will be expected to carry out historic research, work on a local history project and perform general administrative and clerical duties in support of the team.

If you're interested in finding out how to apply, please contact 01942 404430 or e-mail archives@wigan.gov.uk for more information.



Leigh Neighbours PROJECT

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. For more information, go to www.lnpb.org.uk or email info@lnpb.org.uk