

Be Seen, Be Safe

Lily-Jo Jackson is riding high after getting her bike fixed up at a recent cycle safety workshop held in Leigh.

The 6-year-old pupil from Leigh Central was one of many youngsters who came along to our recent Be Seen, Be Safe workshop, organised in a bid to help keep children safer on our roads this winter.

The event, hosted by Leigh Neighbours in partnership with Gearing Up, provides an opportunity for bikes to be serviced free of charge in preparation for winter weather conditions, and aims to make children travelling by bike or on foot more visible to motorists during the darker evenings.

Mum, Sarah Jackson, says: "This is a great idea! It makes sense for parents to take every precaution possible when it comes to protecting their children, and this free event gives mums and dads a little extra peace of mind. As well as getting their bikes checked over, our kids also received some really practical gifts, including hi-vis vests, bike lights and reflective accessories to hang from their bags. I'm really grateful to Leigh Neighbours and Gearing Up for what they're doing in the community."



Dave Graham and Simon Dale of Gearing Up are pictured fixing up a bike at the Be Seen Be Safe event which was once again held on the shared playground of Leigh Central and Sacred Heart RC Primary Schools. Lily-Jo and sister Kelsey Jackson (10) are thrilled with their hi-vis reflective vests. Meanwhile, Sacred Heart pupil Oliver Downs (8) couldn't wait to test his new brakes.

free Christmas Family Craft Workshop

Drop in, bring the kids and learn how to make unique hand-crafted gifts, decorations & keepsakes.

Kingsleigh Methodist Church Community Centre
Saturday 9th December 10.30am - 12.00pm

All materials and refreshments provided.



On Wednesday 1st November, Leigh Neighbours joined the charity, True Colours, to host an event designed to raise awareness about autism and offer insight into the many ways we can all help to support those in our community who live with this condition.



The workshop included an interactive game of 'word bingo' which was a fun way of dispelling common myths about autism, as well as an inspiring video from a teenager calling on people to be show greater tolerance and understanding.

#autismfriendlywigan



GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Firefighters have spoken out about the impact of having stones and bricks thrown at them when responding to incidents. Following a recent spate of attacks, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) has released a video featuring personal experiences of two firefighters who have been targeted while protecting the community.

In the video, firefighters talk about the impact of these incidents, which potentially put people's lives at risk. Crew Manager Pete Wilmot said: "When you get attacked it's frustrating. We're only there to put fires out so people don't get hurt, we're just normal people that want to go home to our families. It is becoming more common and it does make my crew quite angry. It's upsetting sometimes."

Group Manager for Bolton and Wigan, Lee Coleman, said: "We are seeing an increase in attacks on our firefighters, particularly in Bolton and Wigan, and we are doing everything we can with our partners to identify those involved. All our fire appliances have 360 degree CCTV cameras and crew in Greater Manchester are now trialling body worn cameras that allow us to record incidents that occur away from fire engines. Any footage that captures attacks on our crews will be handed to the police and people can be prosecuted."

You can watch the video on their website at www.manchesterfire.gov.uk

Incredible Edible: *eat your landscape* movement coming to Leigh!

Members of the Leigh Neighbours management board were delighted to host the founder of a radical urban gardening movement which is taking root in communities across the globe.

Pam Warhurst visited the Leigh Neighbours project area in late October to explain the principles behind her *Incredible Edible* concept - and in so doing, planted here in Leigh the seed of an idea that she originally germinated ten years ago in her hometown of Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

The principle behind *Incredible Edible* is simple: to encourage guerrilla gardeners to plant fruit, herbs and veggies in accessible public spaces and un-used communal patches for the entire community to use. And it's clearly caught on! Over the past decade, the movement has grown from small herb gardens and plots to more than 100 schemes across the country which include edible canal towpaths and sprouting cemeteries!

Addressing the Leigh Neighbours board, Pam (who coincidentally grew up in Leigh) described with passion how this simple initiative puts local food right at the heart of communities. "*Incredible Edible* is all about growing food and supporting local food businesses, encouraging people to taste fresh local produce, and promoting healthier and happier lifestyles. There's so many possibilities, just roll up your sleeves and build a world around food!"

She adds: "We've even invented a form of tourism, it's called vegetable tourism and, believe it or not, people come from all over the world to poke around in our raised beds."

Jan Eckersley, Vice Chair of Leigh Neighbours, says: "It was a pleasure to welcome Pam, and a delight to hear her speak with such energy and enthusiasm about *Incredible Edible*. It's certainly given us all here at Leigh Neighbours plenty of food for thought."

If you'd like to find out more, you can watch a video at www.ted.com and search: Pam Warhurst, how we can eat our landscapes.



Above: Leigh Neighbours board member, Christine Farnworth and Vice Chair Jan Eckersley welcomed Pam to the Leigh Neighbours community garden (together with helpers Rosie and Zoe from *The Gardening Gang!*)

Left: Jan and board member, Bill Burton, wowed Pam with a project they are working on in the car park on Railway Road. The pair have invested hours in painting old recycled car tyres and filling them with tons of rubble and soil. Once complete, the tyres will be planted up with herbs, fruits and vegetables - produce that will be freely available for local people to help themselves to. Watch this space!



Leigh Christmas Lights Switch-On ✨

5pm - 7pm Thursday 23rd November,
Town Hall Square

We'll be there so come and say hello... the mince pies are on us!



Halloween Family Craft Workshop

Our recent Halloween themed craft workshop at Kingsleigh Methodist community centre went down a real 'treat' with kids both young and old!



Railway Road hanging basket workshop

Hanging Basket Workshops

Our autumn workshops were as popular as ever, attracting in excess of a hundred people to the three events held in late September/ early October. And in true Leigh Neighbours fashion, we also hand delivered dozens more complete baskets to random addresses across the patch. So, if you arrived home to a new hanging basket on your hook, we hope you like it! We'll be holding our next workshops in the Spring, so look out for the notices in our newsletters and on our website and social media pages.



GUESTS GO BANANAS OVER MINIONS LANDMARK

Recent visitors to our patch were delighted to meet one of the area's most popular landmarks. On the corner of Walmesley Road and Coniston Street, guests were introduced to *Stuart*, a planter crafted from recycled tyres. The *Minions*-inspired feature was the creation of our Vice Chair, Jan Eckersley (third from left), a resident of Walmesley Road who decided to take matters into her own hands by bringing some colour to an otherwise drab traffic calming area. Speaking at *From Little Acorns*, a networking event hosted by Leigh Neighbours for fellow Big Local representatives, Jan explained: "Communities need to be empowered to make a positive difference and that's what Leigh Neighbours is all about."

She added: "We encourage local residents to play an active role and not be afraid to develop ideas to improve the area. Our Resident's Fund gives people the chance to apply for funds to cover costs incurred in putting on events and activities, and we're always open to all kinds of ideas. So, come on, get creative!"

As part of the event, the visitors were taken to see the community garden on Gordon Street as well as the recent improvements to the Railway Road car park. Finally, they were also treated to a demonstration on how to create winter hanging baskets. You can see more pictures from the event on our Facebook page and you can find details about the Resident's Fund on our website, www.lnpb.org.uk



CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime



To contact the police in an emergency call 999 or to contact us for a less urgent matter, call 101. For the latest news and information about your Neighbourhood Policing Team visit ww.gmp.police.uk or follow GMP's social media pages.



Local Trust | Big Local

