



It's the Gardening Gang!

It might be the 3Rs which make you a model student in the classroom, but ask any green-fingered expert and they'll tell you it's the 3Ps you need to master if you hope to make a success of your garden: planning, patience and passion! In fact, all the qualities and skills that The Gardening Gang of Gordon Street show in abundance!

The four budding gardeners, pictured above with Leigh Neighbours board member Christine Farnworth and her husband Kenny, have been working hard over the winter to ensure everything in the Leigh Neighbours community garden will be coming up roses this summer.

The Gardening Gang - aka Callum Hadcroft (12) and his sister, Abby (10) together with Rosie Morris (8) and her sister Zoe (12) - are regular visitors to the garden, so much so they were recently presented with specially designed fleeces bearing their new signature logo. [continued overleaf]



The Gardening Gang... continued

Both Christine and Kenny have been involved in the community garden from day one, and are delighted that the children of Gordon Street feel such a sense of pride in the garden, and have taken it to their hearts.

Christine says: "We know from experience how challenging it can be to stay on top of the garden. It is definitely a labour of love. But, the children have all shown dedication and commitment in helping out, so they deserve to be recognised for that. Which is why we were so keen that they were given these specially designed fleeces, as a gesture of our appreciation."

Yvonne, mum to Rosie and Zoe, says: "We're all immensely proud of the kids for the positive contribution they're making to the community. They were really upset last year when the garden was subjected to some very rare anti-social behaviour because it has become so important to them."

Mum Amanda Hadcroft adds: "The children are learning so much from Christine and Kenny, not just gardening but also in other ways, such as taking pride in a job well done, teamwork and respect. As parents, we're thrilled that they're positive ambassadors for young people and we're delighted that Leigh Neighbours has shown such confidence in them."

Meanwhile, activities for Spring are already beginning to take shape. Christine says: "We're planning our Spring hanging baskets which we hope this year will incorporate vegetables, salads and herbs as part of our vision of putting this area of Leigh at the forefront of the boroughwide *Incredible Edible* campaign. Our vision is to ensure struggling families need never go without and have access to freely available fresh produce cultivated in otherwise neglected and overlooked public spaces." To find out more, visit our website at www.lnpb.org.uk or visit our Facebook page.



Above: Kenny and Christine pictured with The Gardening Gang: Abby, Rosie, Callum and Zoe. Below: Rosie and Zoe model their new fleeces with pride.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Incredible Edible Hanging Basket Workshops

10am-12noon on:

Saturday 12th May
Railway Road car park

Thursday 17th May
Community Garden

Friday 18th May
Sacred Heart Parish
Centre, Walmesley Road



HEROES ASSEMBLE

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP THIS COUNTRY!

2-4 MARCH 2018

Let's put Leigh on the map!



There's still time
to register!



www.keepbritaintidy.org



RAILWAY ROAD

environmental improvements
taking shape - *Minions* style!

Main: Jan Eckersley, Bill Burton, Susan and John Gredecki. Below, project officer Stephen Ruffley and Bill proudly display the compost bin; Bill hammering home the fixtures for the planters.

Even the bitterly cold temperatures and miserable drizzle failed to act as a deterrent to the Leigh Neighbours team! Back in January, they braved the inclement weather, determined to put their plans into action....

After an intensive litter pick of the car park on Railway Rd, the group then set about installing a compost bin - creatively fashioned from unwanted plastic pallets - and some wooden box planters - again made from recycled materials. They also pulled up brambles and cut away some low-hanging branches from the trees to ensure the planters below were not in the shade.

Speaking about the recycled tyre planters on the car park, the vice chair of Leigh Neighbours, Jan (who, together with partner Bill, designed, painted and constructed them) says: "Our planters may appear unorthodox in their colours and design, but they're certainly eye-catching, which is exactly what we need.

"We want to get the message out there, to everyone in Leigh, that Leigh Neighbours have embraced the ethos behind *Incredible Edible* and we are keen to spread the word!"

Fast Forward to February... and Jan's been busy planting up the car park planters with garlic and onions, so watch out for these small shoots appearing soon. And the good news is, that's only the start of it! You can keep up to date with all our *Incredible Edible* developments on our Facebook page and in the next issue!



◀ Many thanks to Tony Bishop and Eddie King of Leigh Ornithological Society for kindly fitting some bird boxes on Railway Rd. We hope to see birds making their homes there soon! www.leighos.org.uk

▶ Young people from the Prince's Trust Team Programme have been volunteering their time to clear the alley behind Selwyn Street as part of their 16-week training programme. To find out more, visit www.groundwork.org.uk/clm text 80800 or call 821444 (ask for Prince's Trust team)



Grateful residents, Carol and Arthur of Selwyn St, are pictured with John Gredecki of Leigh Neighbours and a group of inspiring young people from the Prince's Trust Team Programme.

Making a difference in our community!



Leigh Neighbours chair, Susan Gredecki, and board member, John Gredecki joined Leigh MP, Jo Platt, and the organisers of the 2018 Leigh 10K at its official launch back in January. Leigh Neighbours is again proud to sponsor this fabulous event which raises vital funds for Wigan & Leigh Hospice. To sign up, visit www.leigh10k.co.uk or call 01942 525566.



Our Valentines-themed craft workshop was a real hit with the kids! Hats off to organisers and hosts, local mum and school governor, Michelle Downs (right) and Helen Ahmed, head of Sacred Heart RC Primary (left) who both do such a great job in finding fun, creative ways to keep youngsters entertained.

We're holding our next free crafts workshop at Kingsleigh Methodist community centre on Saturday 17th March, 10.00am-12.00noon. There's no need to book, just turn up!

Every little helps

Apologies to the well-known supermarket chain for this blatant plagiarism! But those three little words sum up perfectly how we can all make a big difference, sometimes by making a small gesture or a little extra effort.

This Christmas, Leigh Neighbours made a small donation to several charities, shelters, churches, schools and other organisations here in the project area who work tirelessly throughout the year to help those in crisis in our community - day in, day out. We were determined to show solidarity with those who support the most vulnerable members of our community, because without these local heroes, what kind of community would we live in?

But we know that it's a drop in the ocean given the scale of the need, and a mere gesture in comparison to the time, effort and care these individuals invest all year round.

Which is why Leigh Neighbours is keen to support all the local and unsung heroes who work for the good of the community not just at Christmas but for the rest of the year too - sometimes without any assistance or recognition for their efforts.

So, how can we help you? Well, if you have an idea for an event or an activity that you'd like to organise, you might be interested in our Resident's Fund, an easy-to-access pot of money that is open to anybody in our area to apply for. You can apply for up to £500.

Simply tell us:

- How will the community benefit from your idea?
- Who will be responsible for delivering the idea? What relevant skills do they have that qualify them?
- How much money do you need in order to make it happen? Do you have a rough idea of costings?
- When do you plan on holding the event or activity?
- How will you engage with local people to promote it?

It's really that simple. There's no complicated forms. We're happy to advise. And we won't keep you waiting for an answer. So what have you got to lose?

For more information, email residentsfund@lnpb.org.uk

Excel-lent!

Members of the Leigh Neighbours board recently visited the fantastic team at Excel Education on Leigh Rd to learn more about the things they do in the community. Excel is a training provider which helps people with special educational needs to acquire life skills which enable them to access the workplace, particularly in areas like IT, hair and beauty. For more information, visit their website at excelinlife.webplus.net



Lorna

