

# Be Seen Be Safe



**Our thanks to all the keen cyclists who attended our recent bike repair workshop - despite the wet weather!**

**Left: Sacred Heart/Leigh Central school caretaker Norman looks delighted after the experts at Gearing Up serviced his vintage bike. Right: Leigh St Mary's pupil, Lily (9) and her mum Rachel are pictured with Simon from Gearing Up.**



The free workshop was hosted by our partners at Gearing Up, the Wigan-based social enterprise which specialises in recycling unloved bikes and supporting people into employment. Altogether, the team serviced over a dozen bikes at the session, providing peace of mind to cyclists and parents of children who cycle to school in wet and wintry conditions.

Meanwhile, Leigh Neighbours handed out a variety of freebies including sets of bike lights and fluorescent slapbands which are designed to make dark cyclists more visible for motorists in the dark.

Our thanks once again to Sacred Heart RC School and Leigh Central Primary for allowing us to use their playground to hold the event.

**On Saturday 10th November, from 9.30am until 3.30pm, Gearing Up will be offering free bike MOTs on Bradshawgate as part of the Wigan Council & Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles campaign #getwinterready**

*Lest we forget.*



Leigh Neighbours Community Garden, Gordon Street

# Comings and Goings

Leigh Neighbours is delighted to welcome some new members on to the board!



**Cllr Sue Greensmith:** local ward member and The Mayor of Wigan Borough 2018.



**Cllr Peter Smith, Lord Smith of Leigh:** ward member and former Leader of Wigan Council.



**Claudine Harrison-Draper:** local parent, resident, school governor and employee.



**Michelle Downs:** local mum, school governor and keen community volunteer.

We really look forward to working with you all!

Sadly, we're also losing a couple of our members, local residents Christine Fullelove and Pam Smith. Thank you both for all your support and dedication over the past couple of years, and for helping to steer our fledgling charity. You can find out more about our board members on our website at [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk)

# Railway Road Allotment

*From grassroots to grassheads!*



**Well, it's certainly proven to be a labour of love!**

In fairness, we always knew that developing a community allotment from scratch was going to be a challenge, and yes, it has certainly taken a lot of hard work. But twelve months on, I can honestly say that it's all been worth it. And

we've definitely had some fun along the way, too!

Looking back on our journey over the past year, I know I've learnt a lot. For one thing, the vegetables we planted seemed to fare much better than the fruit, so that's something to bear in mind for next year (although I suspect the particularly dry conditions this summer played a part in our meagre fruit harvest, as well).



I've also learnt that people are genuinely interested in what we're doing here in Leigh, and there's a growing enthusiasm for projects of this kind in our area. And I'm delighted to report that, in spite of repeated dire warnings to the contrary, the allotment has been almost entirely unaffected by anti-social behaviour (aside from a few cats leaving us little presents!) So, it goes to show what we can achieve if we stop dwelling on worst case scenarios and instead start planning for the best! (Oh, the power of positive thinking!)

Speaking of planning, I'm already thinking about what to plant up next year, although of course this equally depends on what people tell me they'd like. So far, I've earmarked space for onions, cabbage, broccoli, peppers and cauliflower... and possibly some asparagus, too. What else do you think we should plant?



Recent visitors to the allotment may have noticed our newest residents! The grasshead planters, made from recycled milk cartons, are a great way to grow herbs such as chives. It's also a fun away for kids to get involved in gardening, too.

I'm also keen to attract lodgers of a different kind to the allotment, which is why I've installed a few bug houses. I've recycled old hanging baskets and other household items to create a new home for them - so I'm looking forward to seeing how they settle in!

Over the coming weeks, I'll be spending time with my other half, Bill, on landscaping the area and arranging for the installation of a noticeboard, so we can keep everybody posted on all our activities (and let people know when our crops are ready to harvest!) Meantime, I'd love to hear from anybody who picked some of our crops this summer - what did you think? And how did you cook them? If you'd like to get involved in the allotment, you can email me at [jan@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:jan@lnpb.org.uk)

*Jan x*

## School Open Days

for families whose child is starting school in September 2019



### Leigh Central Primary School

**Thursday 22nd November**  
10.30am, 2.00pm or 5.30pm  
No need to book, just come to the school office at a time that suits you.



### Leigh St Mary's Primary School

**Wednesday 28th November**  
10-11am, 2-3pm or 5-6pm  
Please phone the school office on 673889 to book a time to suit you.



### Sacred Heart RC Primary School

**Wednesday 28th November**  
9.30am - 11.30am or  
1.30pm - 3.00pm



### Leigh St John's CE Primary School

**Thursday 29th November**  
9.20am, 10.20am, 1.20pm,  
2.20pm, 4.15pm or 5.15pm  
Please phone the school office on 672825 to book a time to suit you.

# Helping create a cleaner, greener Leigh!



**Our autumn hanging basket workshops proved as popular as ever, with well over a hundred local residents attending our three public sessions.**

Over a thousand plants, 40 bags of compost and more than 200 hanging baskets and troughs were shared across the area. We also raised nearly £120 for the local foodbank through people's kind donations, and donated surplus plants to St Mary's Parish Church for their Garden of Remembrance.

For the first time this year, we also organised a workshop specifically for the children of our local primary schools. We focused in previous years that we simply didn't have sufficient time to dedicate to the little ones at our popular public sessions, so this additional one meant we could give them that extra bit of attention. Cllr Sue Greensmith (pictured with pupils from Leigh St Mary's) took part in the children's workshop and said she absolutely loved it!

Our thanks to all those who attended and to our volunteers Tony, Yvonne and Carol. Also 'cheers' to Carol and Lynn from the school catering team at Leigh Central / Sacred Heart RC Schools for keeping us stocked in brews and cookies!

As part of our autumn campaign, we also arranged for young people on The Prince's Trust Team Programme to renovate some rusty old planters which now double up as bike security stands. And, as you can see, they did a great job on them!



All our various environmental projects form an important strand in our Community Plan and will continue to do so going forward. Local residents tell us repeatedly that making the area cleaner and greener remains one of their top priorities.

That's the reason why we were keen to throw our weight behind the recent multi-agency, month-long *Action for Leigh* campaign which was organised by Wigan Council in partnership with Jo Platt MP, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, NHS, Greater Manchester Police and Leigh Residents Association.



**Above: Carol and Lynn; Cllr Sue Greensmith and Leigh St Mary's pupil Samuel (4); Susan Gredecki and Jan Eckersley.**

Initially designed to tackle environmental anti-social behaviour affecting a specific area of Leigh West, the campaign grew to embrace other issues such as begging, truancy, drug-related anti-social behaviour and the night time economy, as well as complementary community safety initiatives such as fire safety advice and mobile health checks.



In support of the effort, Leigh Neighbours agreed to cover the cost of the two skips used in the waste amnesty, and organised litter picks across the area in partnership with local schools.

The Chair of Leigh Neighbours, Susan Gredecki says, "Environmental anti-social behaviour has a detrimental effect on the morale of the local community, and the areas targeted in the waste amnesty have been subjected to higher than average levels. We all need to pull together - agencies, charities, schools and other community groups alike - to tackle this problem by adopting a zero tolerance policy towards perpetrators, promoting educational campaigns and encouraging local people to show greater consideration for their neighbours and greater pride in the place they live."

Leader of Wigan Council Cllr David Molyneux, said: "We have been listening to what the people of Leigh say they want for their communities. The message we are getting from residents is that they want support to make where they live thrive. Working with our partners we will be looking at how we can come together to address concerns raised by the people of Leigh. This month of action will not be a solution to all of the issues which residents have expressed. But we hope it will be the beginnings of a community coming together and working on a long term plan to make Leigh a place where everyone feels safe."

Meanwhile, in order to create a log of all incidents so that the situation can be monitored, residents are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour via the local authority's MyReportIt app or by visiting [www.wigan.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/reportit) or by calling the council's Central Watch Unit on 404040.



Leigh  
**Neighbours**  
PROJECT

# Christmas Crafts

**Fun family workshop!**

**All materials provided.**

**Festive refreshments.**

**Raffle prizes.**

**10.00am to 12.00 noon**

**Kingsleigh Methodist Church**

**community centre, Leigh**

**Saturday 8th December**

**Children must be accompanied  
by a parent or guardian.**

Leigh  
**Neighbours**  
PROJECT

**in pictures**  
September/October



Jan Eckersley and Christine Farnworth (front) represented Leigh Neighbours at a recent event hosted by Wigan Council's *In Bloom* team to give recognition and thanks to all the community groups across the borough that entered North West *In Bloom* 2018.

HAND CRAFTED  
Leigh Parish Church  
*Christmas  
Window Festival*  
LAUNCHING ALONGSIDE OUR LARGEST EVER  
*Makers Market*  
SATURDAY THE 24TH OF NOVEMBER 2018  
10AM-3.30PM £1 ENTRY\*  
\*KIDS FREE WITH A PAYING ADULT



Above: Anne is pictured with grandchildren Darcy and Declan at our September craft workshop. Below: It got a bit messy at the Halloween-themed craft workshop making gloopy marshmallow pops (but nobody seemed to mind!) Pictured with organiser Michelle are Matilda (6), Troy (4), Maisy (8) and Logan (6).

Turnpike Community Theatre  
present  
**Sleeping Beauty**  
The pantomime of your dreams  
by TLC Creative  
Tickets £6\*  
£5 Concessions\*  
& £20\* Family Ticket  
\*All tickets purchased on the door at performances will be charged £0.50 per person  
Wednesday 12th - Saturday 15th  
December 2018 at 7.30pm, Saturday  
matinees at 11am & 2.30pm  
The Turnpike  
Civil Square  
Leigh, WNT 1EB  
Produced & Directed  
by Neil Gredecki  
Tickets available online:  
[www.turnpikecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.turnpikecommunitytheatre.com)



You can follow all our activities, events and news on our social media pages or on our website [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk)

Leigh  
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Local Trust | Big Local