

Welcome to our Community Newsletter! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and colleagues – if they wish to receive this direct please ask them to register an email address with us. For further details please see the 'How to get involved' page.

ACHIEVEMENTS

GREEN-FINGERED VOLUNTEERS NOMINATED FOR QUEEN'S AWARD

A Volunteer group is celebrating after being nominated for a Queen's Award.

The Green Grass Centre's Growing Together programme, which is on the Hagfold Estate in Atherton, gives residents who are out of work and looking to improve their chances of employment the opportunity to gain valuable life skills while giving something back to the community and working in the centre's allotment.

The Queen's Award, which was nominated by Wigan Council, recognises excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community.

Centre manager Lynn Hayes said: "We never expected it. "We are all extremely proud and the volunteers are so happy- it means a lot."

The group will find out if they have won the accolade next June.

COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED TO CAFÉ

Pennington Hall Park's café is to be given a new lease of life thanks to community passion.

Wigan Council has given CommuniTea Spaces CIC ownership of the café through the community asset transfer programme and the group hope to re-open the popular facility in spring 2018, bringing with it a new look.

Michelle Guest, director of CommuniTea Spaces CIC has outlined her vision, which includes a café, Caffeina, which will offer an extensive menu with gluten free and reduced sugar options.

The group have also received money from The Deal for Communities Investment Fund to help start-up their new venture. The group will encourage new visitors to the park, while also rewarding loyal and eco-friendly customers with a coffee rewards scheme and a price discount for cyclists, which is in line with the council's 'live well' initiative.

Michelle Guest said: "We're delighted to have won the bid and we are really excited to begin work on the café so that we can open next year. "There is so much we want to achieve, especially with our menu. We're working with market traders to ensure our produce is locally sourced and we eventually want to see the Incredible Edible project taking shape in the park.

"We want the space to bring together the local community and be accessible for everyone, so we welcome interest from other community groups and volunteers who may want to work with us to make our vision a reality."

Michelle has also encouraged her staff to undergo the council's autism and dementia friendly training to ensure the café is truly inclusive.

CommuniTea Spaces CIC will provide updates on the project through their Facebook pages, 'CommuniTea Spaces CIC' and 'Caffeina at Pennington Hall Park'.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY

Astley & Tyldesley Cycling Club members celebrated their most successful season to date with the annual Presentation and Social event on Sunday afternoon. The function room of the Miners' Welfare Club at Gin Pit was packed with 80 members, families and friends present to enjoy the occasion.

It was the presentation of awards, to celebrate the club winning five leagues this season - Northern League Divisions 1, 2 and 3, the Northern Junior League, the Manchester League Division 2 - plus the various club awards and other individual successes, which was the highlight of the afternoon. A staggering 115 rider

awards were presented by former World Champion Steve Harris, with the five club special awards rounding off the rider presentations. Mark Grantham won the Club Most Improved Rider award, Tom Morrissey took the Rory Blackwell Cup for the Best Newcomer award, Aiden Green received the North West Trophies Cup for Best Novice award, John White won the J. Fisher & Sons Young Rider of the Year Cup, with Emily Burgess a popular winner of the Alan Farrell Memorial Cup for Club Rider of the Year award.

The A&T club have long valued the importance of its officials and volunteers and 23 volunteer awards were made. Lee Phillips was presented with the Ron Hack Memorial Cup for Club Volunteer of the Year.