

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO WIGAN & LEIGH PENSIONERS LINK

THIS YEAR - 2018 -WE ARE CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Pensioners Link was established in 1988 and was the vision of two pensioners, Allan Taylor and Peter Kenny. An important element of their vision was to see organisations and people linked together so as to provide maximum benefit for older people.

Our aims:

- Maintain independence and wellbeing
- Reduce isolation
- Stimulate social interaction
- Access information and services in the community

BENTS GARDEN AND HOME UNITE WITH SHOULDER TO SOLDIER TO LAUNCH GREEN-FINGERED PROJECT

Green-fingered armed forces charity members are putting their skills to good use after being given an area of land to work on.

Bents Garden and Home in Glazebury has donated a plot of its community allotment site to Leigh-based charity Shoulder to Soldier with serving military members, their families and veterans able to join in the project.

The idea arose after one of the charity's veterans suggested an allotment would improve members' moods and motivations. A team of 10 has already visited the plot to design its layout, which also takes into account disabled veterans

Shoulder to Soldier founder Linda Fisher said: "The allotment is already proving very beneficial and will help to improve health and well-being, team building and getting our members out and about to meet and socialise with new people- it is fantastic. "Thank you to Bents for providing this fantastic facility, which is already proving to be a very popular."

Linda also reserved praise for businesses who have supported the project by donating or dropping the price of items needed for it.

SPRING VIEW CLUB BECOMES INCREDIBLY EDIBLE

Following completion of the new bowling green at Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club it was decided to plant some trees on the site. At the same time Wigan Rotary Club decided to take part in a Rotary UK wide challenge to plant a tree for every member of the club.

With the help of a grant from the Abram ward Councillors Brighter Borough Fund and a donation from Wigan Rotary Club seventy apple and pear trees were recently planted at the side of the bowling green and around the rest of the site.

Abram Ward Councillor and Rotarian Eunice Smethurst said 'This is a fantastic opportunity for Rotary, the community and local Councillors to come together to improve the area. With the trees being fruit trees this gives Abram Ward a chance to be part of the Incredibly Edible project that the Council is promoting. I am so pleased that Spring View Cricket & Bowling Club decided to help with this scheme.'

Wigan Rotary Club President Gwyneth Millard said 'I am delighted we have been able to help in a project that will benefit the community, hopefully for many years to come, when the trees produce the apples and pears each year. Wigan Rotary Club has a long history of working with the community on schemes which will have a long term benefit and we aim to carry on this work in the future. Plus every member of Wigan Rotary Club has effectively planted a tree to meet the RI President's Challenge.'

GENEROUS PAULA REWARDED FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY AID

A generous Wigan mum who helps dozens of people at risk of social isolation start the year in style has been given a prestigious award.

Paula Longworth was given a Heart of the Community Award for her group We Care To Share by the Hindley ward councillors.

As well as running We Care To Share Paula is also involved with a junior rugby league team in Hindley, is a member of the community Christmas group, and a member of friends of Leyland Park

AMBITION FOR AGEING AT AGE UK WIGAN BOROUGH: WELL DONE ATHERTON AND PEMBERTON

We have two main aims:

- to reduce social isolation in the over 50s
- to make neighbourhoods more age friendly.

We went ahead with launching the project: 15th December for Atherton high street and 22nd December for Pemberton high street.

We set up our information stall in the high streets and chatted to the shoppers who had braved the cold weather to come out into the high street. It went very well and many people were pleasantly surprised by what local businesses were prepared to offer shoppers.

I would be very grateful if you could print an acknowledgement of this achievement to trumpet that two towns in the Wigan borough are leading the way in the campaign for becoming consciously more age friendly to encourage people back into local shopping.

More details on the project from Martine Royle Ambition for Ageing Age UK Wigan Borough
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