

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

"INSPIRE!" CONCERT SUCCESS

The recently held concert which takes the form of a solo recital evening featuring invited young musicians from across the Wigan borough was a great success resulted in a donation of £475 to Derian House and £130 to Wigan Council's Music Service.. This follows a similar concert last year with John and Barbara O'Neill, long time supporters of the Council's Music Service, actively involved in both years.

Sponsored by Wigan Rotary Club, most of the soloists are students who learn through Wigan Council's award winning Music Service and many of them are finalists and prize winners from the annual Wigan Young Musician of the Year concert held every July. The money to the Wigan Music Service will go to supporting the 'Assisted Tuition Scheme' which provides help for those who need it by reducing the cost of learning to play a musical instrument.

President of Wigan Rotary Club Gwyneth Millard said, 'We were delighted to sponsor the concert and give these gifted young musicians the opportunity to perform in front of an appreciative audience. At the same time providing the music service with funds which I am sure they will use wisely.'

Head of Music Service Dave Little said: "This year's concert was again a huge success and we are grateful to The Rotary Club of Wigan for helping us to make this opportunity possible and we look forward to next year.'

PUPILS INSPIRED BY ARTIST NICHOLAS DIXON TO PRODUCE MURAL

HIGH school pupils have been given a masterclass from an artist to produce their own mural. Fred Longworth High School students were inspired by Leeds abstract painter Nicholas Dixon, who visited last week to help with their artwork.

The mural includes a worker bee design in tribute to people who lost their lives in the Manchester Arena terror attack last year. It is titled "The future is bright" and will be put up outside the school's art block.

Art and design teacher Mrs Belinda Neild said: "The art department and I are thrilled with the outcome of the mural and we are looking forward to seeing the work on display."Parents have also told me the students have been given a massive sense of worth and achievement after doing it."

The project took four days to complete, as well as after-school preparation workshops. The pupils will also be treated to a visit to Nicholas' home city to see his murals which are on display there.

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
Office Tel: 01942 615895

WIGAN SCHOOL PUPIL CELEBRATES PRIZE DRAW WIN AFTER CONTRIBUTING IDEAS ON IMPROVING LOCAL HEALTHCARE

St John Fisher Catholic High School pupil Georgia Crooks is celebrating after winning shopping vouchers in a prize draw which encouraged young people to have their say on the future of local NHS community services.

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Bridgewater) ran the prize draw as part of its Big Conversation consultation which aimed to get the views of as many people as possible on health services. To ensure that young people had their say, the trust visited schools and colleges and encouraged students to complete online and paper forms about what they think of local health services outside of hospitals and how they think they can be further improved. Everyone who submitted a comment, idea or suggestion was entered into a prize draw with one winner chosen at random.

Eugene Lavan, Bridgewater's Deputy Director for Strategy, Planning and Partnerships said:

"Georgia was one of over 200 young people to submit some really innovative ideas on how we can better communicate with them about health services and how we can improve health services so they really meet the needs of young people. "The Trust acknowledges that only by really listening to people in the local communities where we provide services will we truly understand if we are meeting the needs of local people. The work we did with young people was just part of our Big Conversation consultation which involved us speaking to hundreds of people of all ages to gauge their views.

"We have used the feedback to inform our new organisational strategy which sets out our plans for providing local community healthcare over the next five years. Examples of ideas we aim to implement include improving our communications about services, working harder to keep people in our communities healthier and using more technology in the delivery of our services. We will also be diligent in our efforts to better integrate health and social care services to reduce patients having repeated conversations across different organisations."

Read more about Bridgewater's future plans for health services in Wigan, Leigh and other parts of the North West at www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/qualityandplace/