

## **GENERAL**

### **CAN YOU GIVE SANTA'S SLEIGH A HOME?**

Wigan Rotary Club need a safe and dry home for the sleigh until next December.

Can anyone help?

It's the size of a small car but is 7 ft 3" high." If you can help please ring 07813 471000

### **TIME TO TALK ABOUT BEING A DONOR**

A campaigner who donated a kidney to a close relative is looking to set up a support group in Wigan.

Mark Fegan is concerned there is no local forum for patients to share their experiences of living with kidney conditions. Now he is looking to gauge interest in staging regular gatherings so affected people can give each other a lift.

Those interested in finding out more about Mark's plans can contact him on 07922 655725 or email [mfegana5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mfegana5@yahoo.co.uk)

### **FINANCIAL GIFTS GIVEN THIS CHRISTMAS**

Residents across Wigan Borough who may not know they're entitled to extra financial support are being given a helping hand this Christmas thanks to Wigan Council.

Wigan Council has recently undertaken a Winter Award Drive, identifying residents who may be eligible for housing benefit, Council Tax Reduction (CTR), discretionary housing payment and council tax refunds, discount and exemption awards. The review is part of the town hall's plan to help residents manage their finances ahead of the Universal Credit roll out in April 2018 and goes hand in hand with their 'Don't struggle with debt' campaign in partnership with Unify and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

In the last twelve months, (October 2016 – November 2017) 1,718 people visited Wigan Council's crisis desk due to having no food, no money or no gas or electric so the local campaign encourages residents to get support if they are worried about falling into debt or are already struggling.

When claiming for Universal Credit, unlike housing benefit, the local authority does not receive an application for CTR, however, to help identify eligible residents, the council will now treat every Universal Credit claim notified by the Department for Work and Pensions as a CTR claim.

Since November 2017, 1,150 cases were reviewed and as a result, more than £240,000 in unclaimed CTR has been awarded. And with the review continuing, it is hoped that even more eligible residents will be identified. This is alongside £5.2m in housing benefit and £158,000 in council tax refunds and discounts being awarded in December.

Councillor Halliwell added: “Thanks to our various payment plan options, we can also work with residents experiencing financial difficulties to help them pay their council tax bills on time, on a date that suits them. We encourage anyone who may benefit from this to contact us as soon as possible. “If you find that you are struggling with debt and are unable to manage repayments, it is important to think about which debts you need to deal with first. There can be serious consequences to not paying your bills and we don’t want people falling into debt.”

Council tax reduction is awarded to residents who are liable to pay council tax and are on a low income. There are different levels of support depending on the circumstances of the household and residents can find out if they’re eligible by visiting [www.wigan.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/counciltax).

For help and advice on how to manage your money, visit: [www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice)

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST**

The twinning association in Angers organises a photographic contest between its twin towns. It's a good opportunity to show what you like about your city and above all, you can win a trip to Angers between the 25th and 27th May 2018!

Tell a story about your town in 10 pictures. Capture the story in an original or even funny way. PLEASE BE CAREFUL! The aim of the competition isn’t to create a touristic documentary! The story must be lively and entertaining.

Young people aged over 18. It is important to underline that participants must be amateur photographers and not professionals. You can however, be a member of a photography club

Period of taking and editing photos and videos:

- From the 1st of December 2017 to the 10th of March 2018.

Photos and videos will be sent to the AAJ, by the 15th of March 2018 at the very latest. Please send all entries to the following email address: [asso@angersjumelages.fr](mailto:asso@angersjumelages.fr)

If there are more than 5 entrants (per town), the AAJ will choose the best 5. Photos will be chosen based upon technical criteria and also, the originality of the story. Photos must be copyright free, with a resolution of: 3508×49612480×3508 (300DPI).

Full details from Martin Pouvreau Ambassador from Angers Direct line: 01942 489 193  
E Mail [angers@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:angers@wigan.gov.uk)

### **FANCY A TRIP TO ANGERS ? THEN PLAN AHEAD AND SAVE THE DATE**

Wigan and Angers will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Twinning between the two towns next year. We are proposing to take a trip to France to honour the occasion from Thursday 6th – Wednesday 12th September 2018 – to coincide with the annual Accroche-coeurs street festival.

If you have never been to our beautiful twin town – please consider registering your interest and joining us on the trip – individuals, groups and organisations welcome. If you have already visited Angers – then maybe you will want to renew your contacts and make a return visit. Also please pass this information on to your friends. Thank you.

Visit our website to find details of the itinerary, cost and booking forms. Or ring Phil Hasler on 01942 215412 – for further information.

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY**

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>

### **PLANS SUBMITTED TO TRANSFORM OLD CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU BUILDING INTO COMMUNITY HUB**

Plans have been submitted to transform an old Citizens Advice Bureau building into a community hub.

A change-of-use application to turn The Avenue property on Leigh into a hub with a cafe, food market and charity shop on the ground floor has been made by C and E Property Development.

The proposals also include office space and four bedsits on the first floor with a caretaker bedsit on the second.

The Citizens Advice Bureau moved its base from The Avenue to Lord Street in July.

A neighbourhood consultation is currently in place until 8<sup>th</sup> January with a decision on the application expected to be made on 7<sup>th</sup> February

### **OFFER OF CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE**

We currently have a number of grey containers that we need to dispose. In the past we have been asked if we can donate them for schools, charities, or council facilities to use for storage, and as they have little or no scrap value we are more than happy to do this.

We can arrange to deliver the container, however once we drop it the recipient would need to be able to remove the legs to make it stable and to move it to wherever on the site it will be used– all 4 legs must be removed.

Measurements –

Height of legs (floor to base of container)

1.1 meters

Container

Width – 2.3 meters

Height – 2.2 meters

Length – 4.9 meters

We will donate these on a first come first served basis and anyone interested should contact Craig Clayton on 01924 834915.

YPO - Better value, delivered.

41 Industrial Park, Wakefield, WF2 0XE Tel: 01924 834897: Mob: 07872 422567  
[www.ypo.co.uk](http://www.ypo.co.uk)

### **ARE YOU A CARER IN THE WIGAN BOROUGH?**

Then why not join in the activities that Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre have planned for January 2018.

As well as the regular weekly events and monthly groups, the Carers Centre has a variety of sessions and courses for you to come along to, have fun and learn something new including:

- Paint, Pastel and Palette Knives Six Week Course,
- Mindfulness Six Week Course,
- Stressbuster Session for Male Carers,
- Dementia Medication Awareness session,
- Get Digital; weekly one to one sessions and the Appy team are also in the centre once a month
- Kick off Your Shoes and Dance sessions with Hurst Dance Studios

All of the training is free to registered carers

Visit [www.wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk](http://www.wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk)

like WLCC's, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pat.millward.31> and click to receive notifications or email [gail@wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk](mailto:gail@wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk)

### **OVERCROWDED A&E IN 'STAY AWAY' PLEA**

Health chiefs issued a fresh "stay away" warning to all but strict emergency cases as Wigan A&E faced overload again.

Doctors and nursing staff have complained of "severe pressure" on services and the WWL health trust is asking patients to think carefully about the best place to seek appropriate treatment. Casualty departments should only be used for serious illness. They are there to provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms such as blacking

out, bleeding you can't stop, severe chest pain, choking, loss of consciousness, stroke. These are all emergencies which require urgent hospital care.

Clinical Commissioning Group chairman Dr Tim Dalton explained how these A&E pressures can build. He said: "When people attend A&E, one of two things happen: they are either seen; given advice/medication and sent home or they are admitted in to the hospital and given a bed so further tests can be done.

If everyone who goes to A&E can go home afterwards, then A&E runs really smoothly. "If everyone who attends A&E needs a bed, then we have problems. After all we only have a finite number of beds in hospitals, and most of them are used for routine operations and ongoing care.

"Lots of things impact on whether a patient is admitted or sent home and therefore impacts on the pressure on A&E. The obvious one is the nature of the illnesses and injuries presenting that day. "Or it could be the age of the patient, the time of day they attend or even the member of staff that sees them.

"A&E is there for serious, life-threatening illnesses and injuries; emergencies in other words. A good proportion of people who go to A&E don't really fit this description. "They could have seen their GP or gone to a walk-in centre in the borough. Or frankly, some of them could have spent a day in bed resting up. That is the truth. And if they did that, A&E would rarely be under pressure."

### **CYBER CRIME**

The first link to the National Cyber Security Centre provides a host of downloadable pdfs dealing with things from protecting your passwords, to cyber security for small businesses, to managing information risk:

[https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/LoOYQ\\_OuXtF0msWrsH-3dj4qi7zKBvhoostlg2hVcvM=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O\\_ms\\_rbts84yu8r\\_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU\\_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2\\_X8XF\\_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99\\_s-Tj\\_30IjB1pNd\\_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp\\_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCg\\_wAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb\\_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwA5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462Zf8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfographics-ncsc](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/LoOYQ_OuXtF0msWrsH-3dj4qi7zKBvhoostlg2hVcvM=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCg_wAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwA5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462Zf8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfographics-ncsc)

The second link is to a document devised by the City of London Police and outlines the 12 Online Frauds of Christmas outlining ways to stay safe online over the festive period:

[https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXjKMDQMrVNZxuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O\\_ms\\_rbts84yu8r\\_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU\\_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2\\_X8XF\\_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99\\_s-](https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXjKMDQMrVNZxuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-)

[Tj\\_30IjB1pNd\\_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp\\_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb\\_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBWa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.actionfraud.police.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet\\_0.pdf](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/sites/default/files/12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet_0.pdf)

### **LEIGH IS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!**

The town of Leigh has been chosen to be part of a high profile urban regeneration challenge spearheaded by the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Wigan Council has chosen Leigh to be in Andy Burnham's new Town Centre Challenge initiative to regenerate town centres across Greater Manchester. The challenge invites all ten councils across Greater Manchester to nominate a town to be part of the initiative.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester will then work with each council and bring together housing providers, public and private landowners, developers, community groups and other key stakeholders in a concerted effort to support local councils to unlock the potential in town centres. A key focus will be on delivering new housing in town centres with powers under compulsory purchase orders available and investment from a new housing deal supporting the challenge.

Wigan Council's Cabinet agreed that Leigh should be the town put forward by Wigan Borough. Cabinet members agreed that Leigh had many existing strengths but also significant regeneration and growth opportunities.

### **WIGAN BOROUGH'S NEW DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY SERVICE**

A national charity will take the reins on Wigan Borough's drug and alcohol recovery programme this year in a bid to make services even more visible and available in local areas.

Addaction, a service supporting people of all ages to make positive behavioural changes has been awarded a five-year contract by Wigan Council to deliver all drug and alcohol services across the borough. It is the first time that adult and young people's services will be integrated, which will provide a smoother recovery journey, especially those transitioning into adulthood.

The current main bases in Wigan (Coops) and Leigh (Kennedy House) will remain and there will be dedicated officers in each of the seven service delivery footprint areas who will work within the community to truly understand residents' needs.

Wigan Council is leading the way with its drug and alcohol recovery service by working with primary care providers and communities to combat addiction to all drugs, including over the counter medication.

For more information about Addaction, visit: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

### **CALLING ALL VETERANS**

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is the independent consumer champion for local users of health and social care services. We are here to make your services better by listening to your experiences and influencing improvements in the way health and social care is provided locally.

We are working with local veterans to find out their views and experiences of health and social care services and how these services can be improved for veterans in Wigan.

This is your chance to have your say and help us make sure that every member of the ex-services community across this Borough receives the treatment they deserve.

Please help us by completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WFFK9HT>  
It only takes a few minutes and everything you tell us will be treated with the strictest confidence.

If you'd like to find out more visit [www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk) phone 01942 834666 or contact [karenw@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk](mailto:karenw@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk)

### **WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR HOMELESS**

A new and improved approach to homelessness is helping to keep thousands of residents off the streets of Wigan. The approach, which sees Wigan Council working more closely with the voluntary and private sector, is helping to deliver more effective support and rehabilitation for the borough's homeless and rough sleepers by identifying and supporting those at risk as early as possible to prevent them reaching crisis point.

In addition to the current day time programmes offered by a number of groups, the new approach will implement a borough wide outreach provision, which will operate out of hours and at weekends. Two rehabilitation and support hubs will also be created, bringing together all relevant services to help rough sleepers.

The Leigh hub, based at Leigh Court House, will be operational at the end of January 2018 and the Wigan hub will be operational in summer 2018.

There will be emergency access beds available for the homeless and borough-wide services will be available seven days a week.

If you see a homeless person on the streets, please email [roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk) with as much information as possible (including their location) and our officers will investigate. You will also receive an update on the situation. Those who find themselves on the streets can also ring our out of hour's service on: 01942 828777

### **HAG FOLD PARK AND RIDE**

I just set up a petition "To upgrade Hag Fold Station, Atherton to a Park and Ride." and wanted to ask if you could add your name too. This campaign means a lot to me and the more support we can get behind it, the better chance we have of succeeding. You can read

more and sign the petition here: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/to-upgrade-hag-fold-station-atherton-to-a-park-and-ride>

Thank you! Norman Bradbury

P.S. Can you also take a moment to share the petition with others? It's really easy – all you need to do is forward this email or share this link on Facebook or Twitter: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/to-upgrade-hag-fold-station-atherton-to-a-park-and-ride>

### **MANAGE YOUR MONEY, DON'T STRUGGLE WITH DEBT**

'Don't struggle with debt' is the message of a new campaign launching in Wigan Borough. Wigan Council has teamed up with Unify and the Citizen's Advice Bureau to help residents manage their money at one of the most expensive times of the year.

In the twelve months, (October 2016 – November 2017) 1,718 people visited Wigan Council's crisis desk due to having no food, no money or no gas or electric so the local campaign will encourage residents to get support if they are worried about falling into debt or are already struggling.

There is lots of local support and advice out there for people but sometimes it can be difficult find help before it is too late. Credit Unions can provide loans for individuals without a good credit history and interest rates start at just 12.7 per cent, compared to payday lenders which charge APR of up to 1,509 per cent. The council is warning residents against using a payday lenders or loan sharks and is instead urging people to apply for a cheaper loan through a Credit Union or seek advice for how to manage their finances.

Lesley O'Halloran, Assistant Director For Customer Services at Wigan Council said: "If you find that you are struggling with debt and are unable to manage repayments, it is important to think about which debts you need to deal with first. There can be serious consequences to not paying your bills and we don't want people falling into debt. "At this time of year it can be easy to spend money on things that aren't needed and there is support out there for residents who need help managing their money. There are cheaper and safer alternatives to payday lenders and loan sharks. Although they may seem like the easy option, people don't realise how much interest they charge and it can be so damaging."

Angela Fishwick, Chief Executive of Unify Credit Union, said: "Residents should take extra care when borrowing money to pay for the cost of Christmas. Always ask how much the repayments are and what is the total cost of credit and only borrow from licensed lenders. Don't be tempted to borrow from doorstep lenders charging on average 400 per cent APR or from payday lenders charging in excess of 1000 per cent APR. If you are struggling to repay your high cost loan, talk to Unify, we are here to help."

For help and advice on how to manage your money, visit: [www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice)

Alternatively, you can email [welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk) for information about the council's welfare outreach sessions.



## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPION AND SUPPORT MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY WITH ALCOHOL ADVICE?**

Addiction and Wigan & Leigh Recovery Partnership, in partnership with Wigan Council, are looking to recruit and train members of the community to become Community Health Champions. Training will be given, regular meetings held to receive further training and support.

If you are interested, please contact The Recovery Partnership on 01942 404299 to find out more. You can also text/call 07972639250 or email [john.settle@addaction.org.uk](mailto:john.settle@addaction.org.uk)

## **DATA PROTECTION: GDPR HOTLINE**

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a dedicated advice line to help small organisations prepare for a new data protection law.

The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25th May 2018.

Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

There are already resources on the ICO website (<https://ico.org.uk/>) to help organisations employing fewer than 250 people prepare for the GDPR. But the new phone line will offer additional, personal advice to small organisations that still have questions.

People from small organisations should dial the ICO helpline on 0303 123 1113 and select option 4 to be diverted to staff who can offer support.

As well as advice on preparing for the GDPR, callers can also ask questions about current data protection rules and other legislation regulated by the ICO including electronic marketing and Freedom of Information.

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said: "All organisations have to get ready for the new data protection rules, but we recognise that the 5.4 million small organisations in the UK face particular challenges. "Small organisations want to be ready when the new law comes into force in May 2018, but they often struggle to know where to start. They may have less time and money to invest in getting it right and are less likely to have compliance teams, data protection officers or legal experts to advise them what to do. "Our new phone service and all the other resources already on our website plus even more advice and guidance yet to come will help steer small businesses through the new law."

In addition to the new phone service, the ICO has also announced plans to simplify its popular "12 steps to take now" graphic in response to calls from small and micro businesses that they need access to targeted information about how to prepare for the GDPR.

And the ICO is revising its simple-to-use SME toolkit – a resource used by around 9,000 businesses a month since January 2016 – into a GDPR resource that will allow businesses themselves to identify gaps in their own preparation for the new law.

Organisations that have yet to begin preparing for the law change can access a range of resources on the ICO's dedicated data protection reform web pages.

The "12 steps to take now" graphic has been viewed 73,000 times since it was updated in May and is the most downloaded document on the ICO website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

ICO staff have spoken at nearly 100 stakeholder events where "getting ready for the GDPR" has been a key theme and around 10,000 people have viewed sector-specific webinars highlighting GDPR issues. By the end of the year, the ICO will publish a Guide to the GDPR. It expands the content of the current overview to make it a comprehensive guide along the same lines as the current Guide to Data Protection. For further information, visit:

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2017/10/new-data-protection-advice-service-aimed-at-small-organisations-preparing-for-the-general-data-protection-regulation/>

### **WIGAN ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY DAY 2018**

Many will know about the Rotary Club of Wigan sponsored Community Day. To be held in Standishgate on Saturday 7th July 2018 this will be the 5th year of this event and is an opportunity for charities and local good causes to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and members, raise funds, sell merchandise to the many thousands of people who will be in Wigan on that date.

All this at no cost to the organisation.

If organisations would like information on the event can they send an email with the words 'CD info reqd' to [mervyn.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mervyn.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **HANDY PERSONS SERVICE FROM AGE UK WIGAN BOROUGH**

Need some support doing odd jobs around the house? Our Handy Persons Service may be the place to turn to. With our experienced and helpful staff along with a competitively priced service, no job is too small:-

- Installing grab rails and hand rails
- Making bespoke steps for easier access in and out of your property
- Hanging pictures, blinds, curtain rails etc
- Building flat pack furniture or moving furniture round the house
- Installation of Keysafes
- And much more

Ring our friendly team for further information or call at the office to discuss further  
Visit: 68, Market Street, Wigan Call 01942 241972

### **LEAN ON ME**

Is a new independent advocacy service from Wigan Churches Association for Family Welfare. It offers short term support to over 18's.

For more information ring 01942 867888/visit the office at St Catherine's House in Scholes.

### **BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OF OUR NEW WEEKEND WALKS**

We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs. We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs....

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @getactiveoutdoors for all the walks being added in the events section, as we also have a Waggy Tails Walk for you and your four-legged friend on the 3rd December at Pennington Flash.

You can book at [www.inspiringhealthylifestyles.org](http://www.inspiringhealthylifestyles.org) or turn up on the day

Lilford Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Amberswood Nature Reserve (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Pennington Flash (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Haigh Woodland Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

### **HAVE YOU BEEN DISCHARGED FROM A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE?**

#### **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE**

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is looking at people's experiences of being discharged from a mental health in-patient unit, A & E/RAID service or from the Home Based Treatment Team, to make sure people get the right support following a mental health crisis.

Whether you have been in hospital under section or voluntarily, and whether you had a positive or negative experience we want to hear from you.

If you have had several experiences, please tell us about your most recent experience by following the link to our survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WD9QJLR>

This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. It's ok if you don't remember all the details of your experience – please just tell us what you can.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. If you would like more information about Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh visit [www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk) or email [info@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk)

### **HEALTHIER WIGAN PARTNERSHIP - CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE SERVICES NEED YOUR HELP**

The Healthier Wigan Partnership are currently working with Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA) to improve the services they provide to people diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) across Wigan

The aim of this work is to improve the use and awareness of available services to treat people experiencing problems with their COPD condition.

As part of the first part of this work we are spending time making sure that we understand the current steps that patients with COPD take and their experience of that care.

In order to achieve this we need your help. We need to understand what it is currently like to be a patient or carer using the current COPD services across Wigan.

COPD services include GP's, Community Services, Accident and Emergency Departments, Hospital Out Patients and Clinics and Hospital COPD services.

If you have used any of these services or been a carer of someone using these services, we would like to give you the opportunity to speak with Wendy Bell and Carl O'Loughlin who are AQUA patient and carer representatives. Both of these people have lots of experience of being patients of the NHS and have been trained to support other patients and carers.

If you would be willing to share your experience of using Wigan COPD services and want to have a conversation with Wendy or Carl then please get in touch with Kirsty Ratchford on 01942 828111 or [K.Ratchford@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:K.Ratchford@wigan.gov.uk) to share your contact details.

### **TOGETHER WE CAN**

You may have already seen this on our social media channels but Wigan Council recently launched a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

The campaign, #TogetherWeCan, takes into consideration a range of ages and triggers or life events that can be difficult times for people. We want to help people before they reach crisis point but the campaign is also designed to resonate with those who may have more complex mental health needs by reinforcing the message that together, we can help.

The launch of the campaign focused on bereavement and loneliness in older people and the collateral we created (video, poster, flyer and email signature) can be found at [www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan) underneath the '#TogetherWeCan Campaign' tab. This web address also signposts to support available and we hope to develop the page to include real-life stories.

We will be creating more collateral like this based on other triggers and ages throughout the year and will push extra messaging on our social media channels. We would like to encourage everyone to engage with our campaign by tagging @WiganCouncil on Facebook and Twitter and using #TogetherWeCan. If you have a positive story to tell or think your group / services could benefit people with mental health needs on either a minor or more complex scale, we would love to hear from you.

We also run free one hour long InMind sessions, which help people to learn more about looking after their mental wellbeing and spotting the signs of negative mental health. The session covers a number of key messages including, noticing changes in yourself, family

members or friends, reducing the stigma and having the confidence to have different conversations around mental health.

Please email [public.health@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:public.health@wigan.gov.uk) to be involved and a member of the team will be in touch.

### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHARGING CHARITIES**

In recent years the Charity Commission has seen its budget slashed from £40m to around £21m – and further cuts could well be on the horizon. As a result, there is a debate about charging charities to plug the gap – which DSC opposes.

A well-resourced Charity Commission is vital for the work of charities, but the Directory of Social Change believes that diverting charitable resources to fund the regulator is wrong, on many levels.

The Directory of Social Change came up with nine arguments (at least!) against the ‘charity tax’ which you can find here: [www.dsc.org.uk/content/dsc-study-finds-huge-opposition-to-commissions-proposal-to-introduce-fees/](http://www.dsc.org.uk/content/dsc-study-finds-huge-opposition-to-commissions-proposal-to-introduce-fees/)

Do you think the idea is as unacceptable? Join the campaign. For further information and to get involved, visit: [www.dsc.org.uk/campaign-against-charging-charities/](http://www.dsc.org.uk/campaign-against-charging-charities/)

### **DAA UPDATES**

Wigan DAA - Twitter Account

Did you know we have a twitter account? If you are on twitter please follow @WiganDAA and use the account to advertise your organisations and activities/services.

Trading Standards - Call Blockers

Trading Standards are promoting the launch of free call blockers available for people living with dementia. The blockers are free and very easy to install, and are available direct from the scams team.

Please see more information by visiting <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker>

Dementia-friendly cinema

Alzheimer’s Society has worked with the UK Cinema Association and the British Film Institute to create a Dementia Friendly Screenings guide for cinemas. It aims to spread awareness of dementia-friendly screenings and encourages cinemas of all sizes to get involved. It also gives best practice advice on the practicalities of dementia-friendly screenings alongside some helpful case studies.

The guide is being launched today at Hackney Picture house and will be available to download shortly afterwards at: [alzheimers.org.uk/cinema](http://alzheimers.org.uk/cinema)

Dementia-friendly dentistry

The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, British Dental Association, Public Health England and Alzheimer’s Society have created standards for dementia-friendly dentistry. This guide is the first comprehensive resource to guide dentists to support both people with

dementia and their carers in all aspects of their treatment. It provides guidance on care management and care provision as well as support materials. To find out more, please visit: [www.fgdp.org.uk/guidance-standards](http://www.fgdp.org.uk/guidance-standards)

#### “Memories with Grandma”

We’re excited to share our new animation, ‘Memories with Grandma’. It’s aimed at young people aged 7-11, so we’re encouraging schools and youth groups to use the animation to help us create a dementia-friendly generation. To learn more about the animation, please visit: [www.alzheimers.org.uk/memorieswithgrandma](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/memorieswithgrandma)

#### **FREE PERKS FOR LIBRARY MEMBERS**

Residents of Wigan Borough now have free access to a range of magazines thanks to a new perk rewarding library members.

Twelve local authority areas, including Wigan have rolled out the offer in partnership with RB Digital, giving all library members in the area digital access to almost 100 magazines such as BBC Good Food, British Vogue and Horrible Histories. To take advantage of the offer, residents must be signed up to the borough’s library services, which is also free and simple to do either online or at a local library.

Lesley O’Halloran, Assistant Director For Customer Services at Wigan Council said: “This new offer really is a win/win for residents of all ages. Being able to access content in this way will help our older people get online to easily find their favourite subscriptions from the comfort of their home and will also save younger people money they would normally spend on buying these publications in the shops.

Members can access full digital copies of their favourite magazines from computers, smartphones or tablets in a place convenient to them as long as they have an internet connection. When using the RB Digital website, the magazines are stored to a members ‘collection’ for online streaming and can be accessed each time the person logs in, for as long as they like. However, if a member downloads a magazine using the app, the publication will then be stored on the device.

To get started, head to [www.wigan.gov.uk/emagazines](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/emagazines) for information on how to create an account, which will ask for your library card number. If you are not yet a library member, sign up for free now at [www.wigan.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/libraries)

The RB Digital app is available on Google Play or iTunes.

#### **THE CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARDS 2018**

The Charity Governance Awards is an exciting not-for-profit initiative created to celebrate outstanding governance in charities both small and large.

The awards recognise and reward charities achieving great governance. They shine a spotlight on the trustees, staff and volunteers who make change possible day after day by showcasing the stories that demonstrate how effective governance can transform lives.

There are seven categories covering every kind of charitable organisation. The winning charity in each category will receive £5,000.

#### Award categories

- Board Diversity and Inclusivity
- Embracing Digital
- Embracing Opportunity and Harnessing Risk
- Improving Impact – charities with 3 paid staff or fewer (including charities with no paid staff)
- Improving Impact – charities with 4–25 paid staff
- Improving impact – charities with 26 paid staff or more
- Managing Turnaround

Entry is free and you can only submit one entry across all seven categories per charity.

For further information and to enter, visit: [www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk](http://www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk)

Deadline: **Friday 12 January 2018**

#### **BECOME AN ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN AND CHOOSE YOUR PLEDGE**

Public Health England (PHE) leads the co-ordination of Antibiotic Awareness activities in England in collaboration with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department of Health, devolved administrations, and other professional organisations.

PHE established the Antibiotic Guardian campaign to help protect antibiotics and improve knowledge about antibiotic resistance.

You are invited to become an Antibiotic Guardian

As an Antibiotic Guardian, encourage others to join you in protecting antibiotics against the growing threat of antibiotic resistance at [antibioticguardian.com](http://antibioticguardian.com)

Please share on social media using #AntibioticGuardian

Resources and promotional materials for Antibiotic Guardian and EAAD are available via <http://bit.ly/eaad-resources>

#### **RELOCATION OF INPATIENT NEURO-REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Thanks to local patients and residents who engaged with us over the past couple of months around the relocation of the Taylor Unit from Leigh Infirmary. A report summarising the feedback from patients and residents went to Wigan Borough CCGs Governing Body on 28th November 2017.

Whilst Governing Body made the decision to relocate the inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation services to Trafford General Hospital they have asked for further consideration to be made on what can be put in place to help reduce the impact on patients, carers and families. There will be further engagement with staff, patients, carers and families whilst planning for the move.

For full report go to

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/7eb44dc0e2e0d65841a533271/files/1c367e64-50a7-47a8-89e3-30568d863892/Taylor\\_Unit\\_Engagement\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_went\\_to\\_GB.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/7eb44dc0e2e0d65841a533271/files/1c367e64-50a7-47a8-89e3-30568d863892/Taylor_Unit_Engagement_Report_FINAL_went_to_GB.pdf)

### **INTRODUCING THE NORTH WEST SECTOR PARTNERSHIP**

The North West Sector Partnership (NWSP) is a partnership of NHS organisations working across Bolton, Salford and Wigan. Together they are working to transform a number of specialist hospital services to make sure that the same high quality care is provided at all hospitals and that services are sustainable for future generations.

To find out more about the work of NWSP please follow the link below to view the first edition of their online newsletter.

<http://mailchi.mp/39110245b2b0/north-west-sector-partnership-bulletin-01-nov17>

### **GREATER MANCHESTER FESTIVAL OF AGEING**

Did you know that in July 2018 there will be a 'Festival of Ageing' across Greater Manchester? This will include lots of activities, fun and a huge celebration of diverse and positive experiences of ageing.

Like all good festivals, there will be lots of music and food and things to do. Your ideas of fun things that can be organised during the festival are sought

To give your ideas, visit: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T9XXYWG](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T9XXYWG)  
or email: [festival.ageing@gmail.com](mailto:festival.ageing@gmail.com) or Twitter/Facebook @festivalofageing

### **JRF UK POVERTY 2017 REPORT SHOWS SHARP INCREASE IN CHILD AND PENSIONER POVERTY**

UK Poverty 2017, a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has found that almost 400,000 more children and 300,000 more pensioners are now living in poverty than in 2012/13. Since that year, there have been continued increases in poverty, across both age groups. Very little progress has been made in reducing poverty among working-age adults.

The report examines how UK poverty has changed over the last 20 years, providing the most comprehensive and up to date picture of the challenges and prospects facing low income families in modern Britain. It highlights that overall, 14 million people live in poverty in the UK – over one in five of the population. This is made up of eight million working-age adults, four million children and 1.9 million pensioners. 8 million live in families where at least one person is in work.

Over the last 20 years, the UK has dramatically reduced poverty among people who had traditionally been most at risk – pensioners and certain types of families with children. But that progress is beginning to unravel; poverty rates for both groups have started to rise again.

The analysis highlights that the three factors which have led to a fall in poverty and are now under question; state support for many of those on low incomes is falling in real terms, rents are increasing, and rising employment is no longer reducing poverty. As a result, JRF is calling for a national mission to transform the prospects of millions of people living in poverty in the UK.



A summary of the findings and a full copy of the report can be found on the JRF website - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2017>

#### ESF - Working Well Provider Appointed

On Wednesday 23rd November 2017 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) formally announced the appointment of InWork GM Alliance as the provider of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme) contract in Greater Manchester.

InWork GM Alliance is a partnership between Ingeus and The Growth Company and includes Pathways CIC and Pluss as specialist health, wellbeing and disability support organisations.

Working Well will be formally launched at the end of January 2018 when InWork GM will start taking referrals onto the programme from Jobcentre Plus.

#### **ABOUT WORKING WELL**

Working Well aims to provide a holistic approach to supporting people into work with a particular focus on supporting individuals who face compounding and complex barriers such as: mental health needs, long term health conditions, musculoskeletal conditions, and issues with addiction.

The programme will offer people fifteen months of on-programme support and up to six months in-work support to aid their transition into employment and support longer term sustainable work.

#### Working Well in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester was in a unique position in commissioning the provider for Working Well having been devolved powers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Through these devolved powers, the GMCA extended the scope and the reach of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme), bringing a funding package of £52 million for the programme to support over 22,000 individuals in Greater Manchester between 2018 and 2024. The programme is part-financed by the European Social Fund.

To read the full announcement go to [https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/222/gmca\\_appoints\\_working\\_well\\_work\\_and\\_health\\_programme\\_provider](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/222/gmca_appoints_working_well_work_and_health_programme_provider)

#### **PLAY YOUR PART IN GREATER MANCHESTER'S DIGITAL AMBITIONS**

The second GM Digital and Tech Summit was held on the 8 December 2018. The Summit forms part of the crowdsourcing approach taken by the GMCA to develop the GM Digital Strategy and measures.

This crowdsourcing took form through five working groups, made of volunteers. All of these have all produced draft action plans.

To support the stated ambition for Greater Manchester to be a recognised as a top global digital city region and top five in Europe by 2020 these draft action plans, proposed measures and Digital Strategy are published for your review and comment.

After the Summit the draft documents will be taken through the city region's governance including the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Board.

To view and comment upon the draft documents and to read the draft GM Digital Strategy

Full details go to

[https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/234/play\\_your\\_part\\_in\\_our\\_digital\\_ambitions](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/234/play_your_part_in_our_digital_ambitions)

### **'100 VOICES' PROJECT AT THE CHRISTIE HOSPITAL**

Referrals are now being accepted into the '100 Voices' Project at The Christie, which has been developed with support from the Christie charity and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

Any patients or carers who meet the following broad criteria can apply to participate in this project:

- Affected by or caring for someone with cancer
- Treated at least once at The Christie
- At least 12 months from diagnosis

Initial sessions will be run as follows:

11th / 12th Jan at 12.30pm; 1st Feb at 12.30pm; finishing no later than 3.30pm and will be held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Meeting Room 1.

20 patients will be accepted into each workshop, with further sessions being arranged for March and April. A member of the Christie Patient Reference Group and Ben Hayworth, MacMillan Survivorship Network Manager will be supervising each session. Patients can also self-refer and should be instructed to email Ben Hayworth securely on [100voices@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:100voices@christie.nhs.uk) in order to make themselves known.

Patients can come from any disease group and the project is looking for a diverse and inclusive cohort. Support will be provided for patients for whom English is not spoken and/or other access issues as part of this work, and welcome patients from diverse backgrounds. Travel expenses can also be claimed by people participating in this project. To find out more, contact Ben Heyworth at [100voices@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:100voices@christie.nhs.uk) or on 07917 628 672

### **ARE YOU GOING DRY THIS JANUARY?**

Christmas may be approaching but it's not too early to plan to go drink-free in January as a way to kick start a healthy new year.

Last year 79 per cent of participants of Dry January saved money, 63 per cent had better sleep and more energy and 49 per cent lost weight. January 2018 is expected to see over 3.1 million people in the UK ditch the booze for Dry January, according to a YouGov poll commissioned by the charity Alcohol Concern.

The national Dry January campaign has launched in what will be one of the busiest periods of the year for the emergency services as Christmas parties lead to alcohol-related injuries and violence. Alcohol costs the NHS an estimated £3.5 billion each year, which amounts to £120 for every taxpayer.

Two-thirds of people who attempt Dry January make it through the month without drinking, while 72 percent maintain lower levels of harmful drinking six months later than before Dry January.

Professor Kate Ardern, Director For Public Health at Wigan Council said: “Christmas can easily be a time for excess, particularly for those who enjoy a drink to celebrate. So why not kick start a healthy new year by taking part in Dry January.”

Dry January is run by national charity Alcohol Concern, which merged with Alcohol Research UK in April to become an even stronger advocate for a world in which alcohol causes no harm. To sign up to Dry January and get support every step of the way go to [www.dryjanuary.org.uk](http://www.dryjanuary.org.uk)

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY**

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>