

WIGAN & LEIGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP NEWS

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Restorative Justice makes a difference

In February of this year St James C of E Primary School, Worsley Mesnes, was vandalised leaving the school with a hefty repair bill, two injured children, and windows boarded up for months.



Windows were smashed with a glass hammer causing over £1,500 worth of damage and despite great efforts to make sure glass was cleaned extensively two small children suffered cuts to their feet whilst taking P.E. The two boys responsible were caught and each handed a fine and a 6 month Referral Order to Wigan's Youth Offending Team (YOT).

From that point the bad news ends and the good news begins. Following

their referral to Wigan's YOT the young people have worked hard to make up for their criminal damage and in the process helped to transform the school's garden, to teach the pupils a valuable lesson about crime and kick start a gardening club.

Turn to **page 10** for the full story of how our award winning Youth Offending Team helped turn things around for both the young offenders and the school.

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Facelift @ Marsh Green

The Facelift team were drafted in to help prepare an unused space in Marsh Green in August.

The site, formerly a Wigan & Leigh Housing depot, was neglected, overgrown, and an eyesore. It is hoped that the site can be used as a community recycling site for local residents.



Before



After



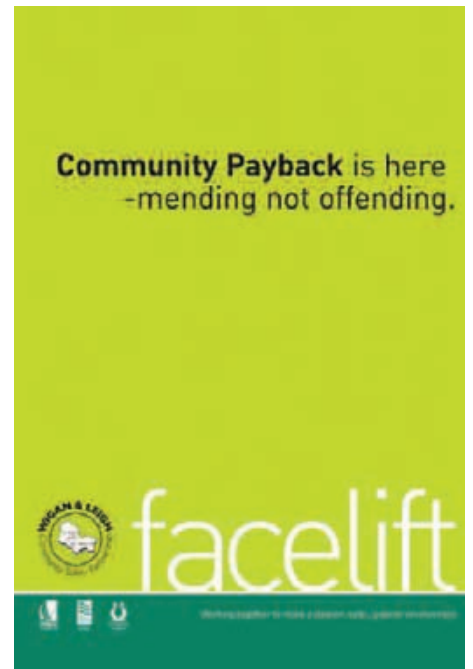
Before



After

The Facelift team is a specially commissioned team of offenders subject to unpaid work as part of their community orders. The team of offenders is provided and supervised by the Unpaid Work unit of Wigan Probation Service. The team works on behalf of the Community Safety Team for 5 days a week until March 2008.

The work is part of a wider environmental improvement plan to improve waste management in the area and make it easier for local residents to get recycling.



The work benefits local residents, visitors to the Borough, community centres, youth clubs, charitable and faith organisations, local sport facilities, and many others.

If you are a local community or voluntary group and you would like the Unpaid Work team to give your area a Facelift please contact **Julie Ridgway, Reassurance Co-ordinator, Community Safety Partnership, Telephone 01942 828114, or email j.ridgway@wigan.gov.uk**

Coming soon... @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @

Ground work at Astley Park
Clearing land at the rear of Willow Grove School in Ashton
Cleaning flats in Platt Bridge

ALCOHOL & YOUTH SKILLS TRAINING

Training and accreditation for practitioners working with young people.

Alcohol Concern is offering subsidised training to help practitioners to work more effectively with young people around alcohol.

They are offering the following training courses:

- Alcohol and Youth Skills (one day course)
- Advanced Alcohol and Youth Skills (two day course)
- Specific training for practitioners working in the Criminal Justice Sector (two day course)

Training includes:

- Alcohol awareness and information

- Identifying signs and symptoms for alcohol misuse
- Providing advice and support to young people
- Supporting changes to reduce alcohol related harm
- Referring young people to specialist/structured support

Participants also have the opportunity to go on to study towards the following Alcohol Concern and Open University competence based awards in line with DANOS:

- Professional Certificate in Alcohol and Youth Skills
- Advanced Professional Certificate in Alcohol and Youth Skills

For more information regarding these courses please contact Carol Lyons, Assistant Drugs and Alcohol Business Manager, Community Safety Team, 01942 486785, c.lyons@wiganmbc.gov.uk

DRUGS ACTION TEAM 5 A SIDE SUCCESS

On the 8th August members of our newly re-launched Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) took part in a regional five a side tournament at Salford Sports City as part of the Home Office's Tackling Drugs Changing Lives campaign.

The tournament, which raised money for the Christie Cancer Hospital, was the culmination of 12 months hard work by DAAT teams across the country to use sport, exercise and other activities to get people off drugs and back into society.

We're very proud to report that our very own team triumphed, beating Oldham 2-0 in the final.



The winning team comprised Dean Hitchen, Martin Mayren, Davey Grime, Phil Jordan, Ste Boyce, David Wilson, and Ashley Wolfendale seen pictured here with their trophies and medals with Oldham Athletic and Congo International Jean Paul Kalala and Oldham Athletic Chief Executive Alan Hardy.

The revamped Drugs & Alcohol Service combines advice and support for drugs users to help them get clean with services to help drug users get their lives back on track, from education and training to advice about housing and benefits. Anyone concerned about their, or a loved one's drug use can call the new helpline on **0800 389 4463**. It's free, confidential and open 24 hours a day.

John keeps 'Em Out!

John Bolan is nobody's fool. That's what comes with 93 years of life experience. So when a salesman came calling at John's home in Orrell, he immediately knew something just wasn't right. And thanks to following the right advice from Wigan's Community Safety Partnership he could have saved himself and his neighbours a lot of grief and heartache.



John proudly displays a Wigan Council sign in his front window urging cold callers not to bother knocking but the stranger ignored it and called anyway. **"There was a man at the door with a bag under his arm,"** explains John. **"I never open the door fully to anyone I do not know so I put the chain on and asked what he wanted. He said he was selling things but I told him I wasn't interested and sent him on his way."**

But that wasn't enough for the community-minded former bakery owner; he decided to keep watching the man as he called at other homes. John keeps a list of useful numbers close to the phone and one quick call later Orrell community police officers

were aware of what was going on. The 'salesman' was picked up close to John's home and detained by police.

It later transpired that he'd been doing the rounds in the community and others had also become suspicious of his behaviour. He asked one woman for a drink of water and another resident if they lived alone.

Wigan's Chief Trading Standards Officer Julie Middlehurst says: **"John did all the right things and we'd like to congratulate him on his quick thinking and concern for others. Sadly bogus callers and distraction burglars tend to target older and vulnerable people but if everyone followed John's example there'd be a lot less of them around."**

The advice from Trading Standards is clear: Never deal with anyone who turns up at your door unannounced.

If you would like a crime information pack giving tips on home safety, including our useful numbers and "Sorry" card, as displayed by John, please contact the Community Safety Team on 01942 828111.

SHEVINGTON'S ONE STOP SHOP OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The 5th September saw the opening of the first 'One Stop Shop' at Shevington Library on Gathurst Lane.

The new facility will be open every Wednesday between 1.30pm - 3.30pm for residents to drop-in and raise any concerns they have about issues such as alcohol and drug misuse, anti social behaviour, criminal damage, local housing, and grot spots.

Local councillors, will be joined by officers from Wigan & Leigh Housing, the Tenants & Residents Association and the Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

The centre will also be the new base for local Police officers. Area Inspector Glenn Jones said "The library is the ideal venue; it is right at the centre of Shevington, and will help us forge closer links with the community to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. Some people find police stations intimidating, as this is a friendlier place I hope it will encourage people to come and see us."

Back to the shop floor exercises are a great opportunity for managers to see first hand the issues faced by front line staff every day. It helps them to understand how customers see the organisation and what they want and need to build better and more responsive services. They help to boost staff moral and managers gain a better understanding of staff concerns.

Back to the Floor with Nicola Yates



Who	Nicola Yates
When	30th April 2007
Where	Marsh Green Neighbourhood Team

In the first of our new series Nicola Yates, Assistant Director of Community Safety, part of the Environmental Services department of Wigan Council went back to the floor with the Marsh Green Neighbourhood Team.

“I did the back to the floor exercise in order to inform my thinking around how “Neighbourhood Teams” could be best developed. I wanted to see for myself what it was like to tackle neighbourhood issues on the ground. I started the day at the Marsh Green Neighbourhood Office with a tour of the estate looking at sites where problems had been identified, such as litter, anti social behaviour, and fly tipping and what had been done about them. It was useful to

listen to the officers frustrations about the lack of a joined up approach between council departments and the impact that this can have on residents perceptions of council services.

In the afternoon I took part in one of the regular four weekly estate inspections, looking for things like broken fences, gutters in need of repair, and untidy gardens - all things that if fixed quickly, will improve life on the estate. On our walk round

I could see where previous problems had been identified and then fixed. I was impressed by the cleanliness of the estate thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Marsh Green team.

It was clear from my visit that the benefits of working in a joined up way far outweigh the difficulties we might encounter and we will use the lessons learned from the Marsh Green Neighbourhood Team and other pilots, to improve the way we provide services in a joined up way across the borough.”

Nicola Yates was born in St Helens and now lives in Wigan. Before becoming Assistant Director she was the Drugs and Alcohol Business Manager. When she’s not at work she’s with her horses. Nicola is involved with a national equine society and organises and runs equestrian events and judges at a national level.

What is your vision for your new role and what do you hope to achieve?

“My vision, which I hope everyone shares, is to transform the way in which we respond to the needs of our communities. Crime, Grime, Disorder and Substance Misuse affect all our lives in some way but some of our communities are less well equipped to deal with the symptoms or the causes. It is important that we understand what life is like for our residents

so that we can help them to build a better quality of life by providing the services that have the greatest impact on their environment and their day to day lives.”

What is your view of Neighbourhood Services and what difference do you think it will make to the community and to the way we work as a council?

“The challenge for Neighbourhood Services will be to let go of the traditional ways in which we allocate work and resources, and for every employee to be committed to providing what is needed in order to get the job done – even if it’s not what you usually do day to day. We need to ensure that staff are equipped with the skills and the knowledge that allows them to respond to residents needs efficiently and to keep them up to date on what is being done.”

What would be your dream job?

“Ever since reading Thunderhead as a child, I’ve wanted to be a cowgirl. I can see myself driving cattle and riding broncos for a living! For now I am content with my cowboy boot collection!”

What is your top environmental tip?

“Reduce carbon emissions – buy a horse and ride to work! Recycle – horse poo is good for your roses and your vegetable patch too! Seriously – we are using up the worlds resources at a rate faster than they are being replenished. We all need to do our bit. Know how you can contribute to making the borough a safer, cleaner, greener place to live and make a pledge to do a little bit to help – even a simple thing like re-using your carrier bags or taking your bottles to the bottle bank. It all makes a difference.”

Sports Development



As well as keeping young people healthy, structured activities and sports help to build confidence and improve concentration and success in school. Sports and activity are also a key tool for combatting anti social behaviour, giving young people fun alternatives to hanging around the streets where boredom can easily lead to vandalism, alcohol and drug abuse, and nuisance behaviour.



Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust's Sports Development department is committed to not only providing activities for young people but also to building links with the community and helping them to get involved.

Through the School Support Partnership (SSP) and the Junior Sports League (JSL) they work with local schools to develop activities and encourage young people to get involved outside of school hours.

Diversionary activities are set up by community coaches to give young people competitive and non-competitive activities in their local area. Multisports events are set up during evenings and weekends and are free to all young people.

The local community is encouraged to get involved and volunteers are assisted to gain coaching qualifications. Volunteers are asked to commit as much of their time and effort as they can give and Sports Development

continue to support them once qualified and able to lead groups on their own.

The team work in close partnership with the Community Safety Team who provide funding and support to the Active Coaching delivery programme. Along with Sport England they have provided funding for 3 new coaches.

John McMullen is one of the Community Sports Coaches with the Active Coaching Team: **"We are working to build a sustainable programme which involves children from a young age, throughout their time at school and beyond.**

"The aim is to get kids involved when they are young to build their confidence and keep them involved once they leave school. We want to encourage them to not only keep active into their adult life but also to get them involved in the community and helping others to get involved too. The plan goes full circle; we encourage them to get involved then they take over and encourage the next generation who encourage the next generation. All with continued support from the Sports Development team and our partners"

For more information on the Active Coaching Team or on volunteering and the courses available contact Wigan Sports Development Unit on 01942 404982 or visit www.wbsc.org.uk

Marsh Green logo officially unveiled



Marsh Green has a colourful new look thanks to a pair of talented local schoolchildren.

The design for the logo was created by 11 year olds Nathan Taylor and Lauren Roscoe at Marsh Green Primary School, where Year Six children took part in a workshop to create a visual identity for the estate. The logo will be displayed at the school, housing and residents association offices, the local community centre and St Barnabas Church. Community groups are expected to adopt it and individuals can wear pin badges to show their community spirit.

Work on the logo was commissioned by Wigan Council's Marsh Green Neighbourhood Team and the local priorities group.

For more information contact the Marsh Green Neighbourhood Team on 01942 486771