

Building Stronger Communities

Be part of it



Summer 2011

School kids lead by example

The bell's gone and within minutes, throngs of school children hurtle through the gates, happily heading home.

But if you live near that school, the sound of the bell can provoke a less happy reaction. Because some of those children will leave more than echoes of laughter and chatter in their wake – they will leave litter.

So, determined to lead by example, two of the borough's biggest schools - The Byrchall and Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Secondary Schools - have joined forces to beat the problem.

Year 7 pupils at Edmund Arrowsmith have been shaming their peers by

photographing litter-strewn routes near their school, and taking part in an eco-themed assembly. The school's pupil council is looking at issuing conduct cards to litter louts and staff are on the lookout to reprimand litter bugs.

Next door, the Byrchall High School's eco committee has produced posters and certificates for local businesses. Pupils have been filming in and around

the school grounds to create an anti-litter video message. Their recent eco-week saw poster competitions, poems and short stories about litter.

And local ward councillors have expressed delight at the way in which the year 7s tackled the issue.

Cllr Paul Tushingham, who is Chair of Governors at Byrchall, says: "I remember being told as a schoolboy to



Cllrs Ash and Tushingham with Olivia, Josh, Chris and Ben, join Banana Skin Man on Liverpool Road in Ashton.

What is the Building Stronger Communities Partnership?

Agencies across the borough, including the council, police, housing, fire, probation, leisure trust, NHS and voluntary sector, who are working together, tackling crime, providing positive activities and making our borough a cleaner, greener, safer place to live.

get into the routine of putting your litter in your bag or pocket until you get home. I'm pleased to see these pupils taking pride in their town."

Cllr Nigel Ash adds: "It just takes a small number of litterouts to ruin a street. Well done to Year 7 at the two schools for showing leadership here."

Hindley Neighbourhood Policing Team Update



Insp Anne Scott says:

Anti-Social Behaviour is down compared to last year,

an excellent result which reflects all the hard work officers, partners and the community have put

into tackling the issue. We increased patrolling, notably in Aston Heath and the Gerard Centre car park. And in order to safeguard young people enjoying Jubilee Park, we also trying to secure funding for lighting for the skate park in winter. We also fully support initiatives such as Safe4Summer which aims to divert young people into safe and positive activities.

And finally, whilst year to date figures on domestic burglary are encouraging, I urge people not to give opportunist burglars an open invitation. Secure your home and follow basic crime prevention advice.

To contact us, call **0161 856 7436** or email hindley.apt@gmp.police.uk

CRIME SNAPSHOT

There was a spike in criminal damage in the Ashton ward in July with 12 reported incidents (04.07.11 - 31.07.11), compared with 5 in June (06.06.11 - 03.07.11) and 6 in May (09.05.11 - 05.06.11).



Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Firestoppers 0800 923 9999

Young people take lead on X Zones Xtreme

Young people from across the Ashton area are taking the lead on a community-wide activity project supported by youth workers from Wigan Council and the Friends of Jubilee Park.

Speaking on behalf of Ashton Youth Council, Courtney Brennan, 15, from Ashton, says: "This is our chance to work with the community and to show that most young people want to do positive

things. Sometimes people stereotype young people and so the positive things that lots of us do don't always get noticed."

Jack Morris, 15, adds: "We went to a community meeting this week and it was really good that adults were listening to our ideas. It's good that we are taking some responsibility for ourselves by organising things to do."

Lots of local agencies including Brook, Connexions, the council's Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team, Wigan Leisure and Culture

Trust and the NHS will be supporting the sessions by running activities and offering support and information.

Ashton Youth Council meets on Wednesday evenings 6.00pm-8.45pm at the Salvation Army building in Ashton.

If you'd like to get involved or want to find out more, contact Youth Workers from Wigan Council on 01942 486111 or log onto www.wlct.org/linconline for more activities for young people.

Night Time Economy:

Sadly, there's been a few assaults in Ashton since the start of the year and the police and licensing partners are working closely to rid the town centre of violent offenders. The Pub Watch scheme is working well and certain licensed premises are upgrading their CCTV systems - so people who cause problems in Ashton town centre can expect to be banned from their favourite haunts. We want to make Ashton a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

Showing community spirit

"Fire stations are iconic landmarks in the heart of the community - and should be there for the benefit of local people."

That's the message that Wigan Borough Commander at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Steve Sheridan, wants to get across to community groups across Ashton and Bryn who may be looking for free rooms to hold their meetings, workshops or activities.

Rooms are free to community groups, with just a nominal charge for the private/profit-making sector.

And what's more, all rooms have IT facilities.

Altogether there are 4 stations across the borough with rooms available for you to use: Atherton, Hindley, Leigh and Wigan.

So far, Wigan Connexions, Hindley Roses Morris Dancers and Orrell Amateur Dramatics have all taken advantage of this opportunity. To find out more contact Steve on SheridaS@manchesterfire.gov.uk



US-Girls



Wigan Sports Development is launching a series of sports opportunities for women aged 16-25 across the borough as part of the StreetGames national 'Us Girls' programme. The Sport England funded programme is part of the Active Women campaign to tackle the gender gap in sport.

To find out more contact Wigan Sports Development on 01942 828510.



Staying safe4summer



There are more than 28,000 young people in the borough and each year they get to enjoy thousands of hours of positive activities laid on by agencies such as the council, police, leisure trust and fire service.

And now Safe4Summer is back!

The campaign involving all local partners aims to divert young people away from potentially dangerous, risky or anti-social behaviour and into more positive activities, from healthy eating workshops and self defence lessons to sports and crafts.

To find out more, go to www.wigan.gov.uk/safe4summer



Contact us

Environmental Services Helpline **01942 404364**

Wigan Council **01942 244991**

Police **0161 827 5050** (to report a crime)

Wigan and Leigh Housing **01942 705040**

NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan **01942 482711**