

Building Stronger Communities

Be part of it



Summer 2011

WELCOME to your new home!

They only opened for business in Wigan's indoor market a few weeks ago, but already the team behind Welcome Credit Union say they're staggered at the impact the move to a more prominent location has had on footfall.

Manager, Diane Schanzl, says: "The market is a fantastic location, right in the heart of the community. We had hoped that by moving to a more visible and accessible location that we'd see a growth in membership, savings and loans, and clearly it's having a positive affect already."

Welcome is a community savings and loan co-operative which shares its profits with members by way of dividend. Authorised and

regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, Welcome has the backing of Wigan Council and other agencies including Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern.

Cllr Chris Ready, Wigan council's champion for customer services, is a staunch supporter of credit unions. He says: "Credit unions can turn lives around, especially during an economic downturn when people can find themselves at their most vulnerable. I fully support the credit union movement, because by providing a compassionate, practical and businesslike service, these organisations can potentially drive loan sharks out of business and help people in genuine need. What is more, the move to the market will

increase footfall, which is great news for the local traders."

Diane adds: "Credit unions offer low interest rates and flexible terms which make them a viable alternative to the high street as well as to those less scrupulous lenders whose extortionate interest rates can literally ruin lives. Over the past ten years, Welcome Credit Union has offered an average 3.75% dividend on savings. Because they offer healthy

returns, credit unions also appeal to savers with a social conscience who want to invest their money sagely, so that they can help make a difference in their community."

Wigan's Credit Unions are:

**Welcome Credit Union:
Wigan Indoor Market Hall,
01942 828720**

**Unity Credit Union:
13 Smithy Green Ince,
01942 701706**



Cllr Chris Ready at the official opening with Diane Schanzl and founder members, Ethel Walsh, John and Val Baxter.

Wigan Neighbourhood Policing Team Update



Insp Glenn Jones says:

We're once again cracking down on illegal off-roaders and this time

we're focussing our attention on the Whelley Loop Line, which residents say gets used as a rally race track by riders who show no consideration for

others or for the environment.

A team of six police riders from GMP's Specialist Operations Branch was recently deployed as part of an intensive operation to track down illegal off-roaders, issue fines and confiscate vehicles. So far, 5 Section 59 warnings have been issued to youths found to be using bikes in an anti-social manner. They've been warned if they're caught a second time, they face having their vehicles

confiscated and crushed.

Further action is planned in September in Higher and Lower Ince, again covering part of the Loop Line. We are determined to banish illegal off-roaders from this area and to ensure that everybody in the community can use the Loop Line safely.

To contact us, call 0161 856 7188 or email wigan.apt@gmp.police.uk

CRIME SNAPSHOT

ASB rose in Ince ward during the 4 week period 6/6/11 - 3/7/11 from 75 to 105 incidents; and in Aspull, New Springs and Whelley from 35 to 59 incidents. But there were good reductions in Wigan West ward during the same period, from 62 incidents of ASB to 42.



Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Firestoppers 0800 923 9999

Kicking ASB into touch

A summer sports project which cut anti-social behaviour in a Wigan town centre park is back in play.

Operation Windburn was so successful in diverting young people into positive sports activities in Mesnes Park that it's being rolled out again - and this summer, there's even more on offer.

Young people visiting the park on Friday evenings can sharpen their archery skills or brave the climbing wall. Activities will run every Friday evening for the eight-week summer holiday period, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

Cllr. Kevin Anderson, Wigan Council's Champion for Neighbourhoods and Environment says:

"The success of Operation Windburn lies not simply in enforcement but in genuine engagement where we can build relationships with the young people. We've taken on board what the young people want and provided them with a place where they can let their hair down,

socialise with their friends in a safe environment and get involved in some fun activities on their doorstep."

Operation Windburn is just one example of how partners are tackling a widespread problem that affects many communities.



Safe4Summer is a regional campaign aimed at encouraging young people to have fun whilst delivering personal safety and community awareness messages. For more information on activities for young people, visit www.wigan.gov.uk/safe4summer

To report anti-social behaviour, call 01942 404364 or Neighbourhood Policing on 0161 856 7124.

Green Light for Youth Zone

A multi-million pound complex for young people on Mesnes Field has been given the go-ahead. It's hoped up to 3,000 young people aged 8-19 will use the centre every week.

Read more at www.wigan.gov.uk/News/Youth_Zone.htm



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.

Beech Hill Fun Day

It was a day to remember.. 200 kids turned up and took part in the Beech Hill family fun day which recently took place in Gidlow Park. As well as climbing aboard the Rock Bus, kids got to scale the bouncy castle and design their own hanging baskets.

The event was organised by Beech Hill & Sacred Heart Surestart Children's Centre and Wigan Council's Neighbourhood Team and was supported by various partners and ward members.

Dave Lyon, Neighbourhood Team Leader, says: "This event is part of an ongoing

plan to revitalise the community, by encouraging local people to have more say in what goes on in their neighbourhood.

"We recently set up the Beech Hill Virtual Estate Team, a small group of representatives from all the agencies who are working alongside the community

on the ground to help local people form their own residents group, organise similar events and influence how services are delivered on their estate."

To find out more about the Beech Hill Virtual Estate

Team, contact Dave Lyon on 01942 488237.



Friends of Amberswood recently met for the first time to discuss a five year plan for Amberswood in conjunction with Wigan Council and the Groundwork Trust. The group is keen to hear from the residents of Hindley, Platt Bridge, Springview and Lower Ince about environmental improvements to the 160 hectare site. If you would like to get involved in the next Friends of Amberswood meeting, call 01942 404226.

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**