

# Building Stronger Communities

*Be part of it*



Summer 2011

## Is your home fire safe?

**Firefighters are urging local residents in Standish, Aspull and Shevington to get their homes checked against the risk of accidental fire.**

There were 232 accidental house fires in Wigan Borough last year, including 24 serious ones in Standish, Aspull and Shevington. So this year, fire fighters are determined to reduce this number.

All residents are entitled to a free Home Fire Risk Assessment to make sure they know how to safeguard their homes against fire.

Standish resident Howard Stockley recently took advantage of this offer. Howard says:

"When I heard my local fire station was offering free



Fire Officer Steve Tomaselli with resident Howard Stockley

Home Fire Risk Assessments, I booked mine straight away"

"While I already had smoke alarms installed in my house, I wanted to make sure I was doing everything I could to protect my home and family against fire so this seemed like the obvious thing to do, especially as it's free and takes just minutes."

Wigan Station Commander, Geoff Thornley says:

"A Home Fire Risk Assessment (HFRA) involves a visit from your local fire fighters who will give advice on how the occupier can protect their home. They will also fit where necessary, smoke alarms free of charge.

"The visit shouldn't take longer than 20-30 minutes and gives residents the reassurance that they are getting professional advice and information on fire related matters from the experts. House fires can have disastrous effects, but most of our recommendations are simple and easy to put into practice.

"Smoke alarms are a vital part of protecting your home and ensuring you and your family escape a fire, but

### 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.

they do not prevent fires occurring in the first place. Only acting upon good fire prevention advice will help to prevent a fire from starting."

**For a FREE Home Fire Risk Assessment please call: 0800 555 815**

## Wigan Neighbourhood Policing Team Update



**Insp Glenn Jones says:**

At this time of year, we advise residents to be extra

vigilant when it comes to securing their home against opportunist burglaries. Earlier in Spring we saw a spike in burglaries in Standish,

including one in Pepper Lane which happened in the afternoon when offenders forced a patio door. In warmer weather some residents may be tempted to leave windows open - but don't make it easy for thieves. Keep windows and doors locked every time you leave your home unattended.

Over the last few weeks, we've confiscated a considerable amount of

alcohol from underage youths as well as from adults who were suspected of proxy sales, ie. buying alcohol for under 18s. We are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour, particularly alcohol-related ASB and we urge people who are having problems to call us.

**You can contact Wigan NPT by calling 0161 856 7124 or emailing wigan.ap@gmp.police.uk**

### CRIME SNAPSHOT

There have been 74 fewer incidents of ASB across Standish with Langtree and Shevington with Lower Ground when you compare 1 April - 31 July 2011 against the same period in 2010 - a drop of 23%



Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Firestoppers 0800 923 9999

## Shevington gets growing for In Bloom!

The borough is full of award-winning green spaces, thanks in no small part to the efforts of community groups in Standish, Ashton, Orrell, and Howe Bridge who have already won recognition from North West in Bloom.

And now, this year a group from Shevington is set to follow in their footsteps!

After the record success for other Wigan communities in the last North West In Bloom Awards, Shevington has

been warmly welcomed into the family of eco-friendly communities by the council's In Bloom lead, Damian Jenkinson.

Damian says: "It's great to have Shevington on board, creating pride in its community and its residents and demonstrating how much they care about their area and its environment."

Northwest in Bloom is not limited to gardening. Its judges are also looking to see how the whole community work together.

Work done so far by the community association includes:



- Clearing undergrowth and planting shrubs around the recreation ground.
- Maintaining the park and play areas.
- Best garden competitions.
- Allotments – the Parish Council currently has a site with about 40 plots.

Coming soon to Shevington from In Bloom supporters Moss Bank Nursery, Leigh.

Shevington organiser Eileen Longmore says: "We want to really make a difference in our village, but this means making improvements carefully so we can deliver results. We'll start around the shops and then move out to the wider community.

## Kicking ASB into touch

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) comes in many forms and can make life pretty miserable for those on the sharp end.

So, a sports project designed to tackle youth-related ASB in Standish is being welcomed by residents, businesses and agencies alike.

Wigan Sports Development and StreetGames recently secured £10k from the Co-Op to deliver a project aimed at diverting young people away from ASB and into positive activities.

The Co-Op at Standish was

chosen to pilot the new scheme because of issues the store had experienced with youth-related ASB.

Chris Essex-Crosby, Community Sports Development Manager, Wigan Sports Development says:

**"This funding gives us a fantastic opportunity to engage with young people in a positive way. The project will last 20 weeks and run through to November."**

Cllr Kevin Anderson, cabinet champion for safer neighbourhoods, says:

"Evidence has shown time



and time again that providing a range of sports and positive activities is an effective way of reducing ASB in our communities. It's only a minority of young people who get involved in ASB so we don't want to stigmatise young people but we do listen to the concerns of local residents and businesses and we are determined to tackle ASB robustly."

For more information about what's being planned, go to [www.wigan.gov.uk/safe4summer](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/safe4summer) and follow the links.

### 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.

They're currently looking for groups of young women interested in taking part in regular sports activities. This will be a great opportunity to get fit, active and socialise.

Groups and individuals who would like to take part in the Active Women's Project should contact Wigan Sports Development on 01942 828510.

### 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**

