

TRADING STANDARDS NEWS



Issue 35

Autumn 2008



Who are Trading Standards?

The Trading Standards Service is part of Wigan Council's Environmental Services Department. Our aim is to achieve a fair, safe and honest trading environment within the borough. Whether you are a consumer or a trader, you are equally important to us.

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Healthy Way For Wigan

Wigan Council Community Protection Section recently attended a Children's fun day held at Westfield Community Centre to encourage local residents to use the facilities, and to help families to be healthier and happier.

The theme of the day was to promote healthy eating and Living, and Wigan Council Community Protection Section manned an interactive healthy eating display. The display was to inform everyone that while all kinds of food can be included in a healthy diet, portion size is very important, and many of us underestimate how much we serve ourselves. The interactive display proved popular and an eye opener to many people. Quite a few found that they used all the recommended daily allowance of salt on one plate of chips, or regularly poured themselves a portion of cereal that was four times bigger than the recommended amount on the packets.

Many members of the public filled in a healthy eating questionnaire and were entered into a prize draw for a lovely basket of fruit. The other main exhibitors at the centre were from the NHS, who had stalls providing information on giving babies a good start in life by

breastfeeding, feeding the growing child, and looking after their development. There was plenty to enjoy, such as:

- examples of healthier food choices
- free samples of fruit smoothies (those delicious fruit drinks that taste so nice they should be 'naughty'),
- free recipe books,
- free prize draws,
- prize quizzes
- and an enormous set of teeth to clean, where children could earn themselves free toothpaste and a toothbrush.
- There was even a puppet show for the children.

Everyone that attended had a very enjoyable day. The fun day preceded the recent 2nd **Wigan Food and Drink Festival** which proved to be a busy time for the members of the Fair Trading Team who spent three days in the festival marquee working hard to promote healthier eating.

Teaming up with Metrofresh on Thursday October 9th they helped two school cooks demonstrate the preparation of a couple of simple but healthy school meal items which are firm favourites with the kids.

The pasta bolognaise and garlic bread was also appreciated by the audience as 'one

we made earlier' (well several actually) were served up to everyone present.

Over 300 people completed



Tom Bridge & Rose Lee with members of the Metrofresh team and one of their main suppliers

the team's healthier eating questionnaire, the results of which will help the team plan details of the new Healthier Business Award. All the questionnaires were entered into a prize draw and three lucky winners won a fruit basket to help them on their way to a healthier diet.

Results of the questionnaire show that although we might still like our traditional pies, the majority of the Borough's residents are keen to eat a healthier diet and would prefer caterers to give details of how much fat, salt and sugar is in their food. Team members will soon start working with caterers to find out how this can be done.

It's all about choice.....and if the public can be given the information they require the choice will be all theirs!



Fair Play Charter - Are you looking for a reputable garage?

Need a reputable garage to buy a car from or have your car serviced? Visit www.wigan.gov.uk and search for Fair Play Charter or ring 01942 827476 for a list of Wigan members of the Charter, who are committed to fair and honest trading.



Eunice Cadman Beech Hill. One of our happy winners

Buying Alcohol For Children? - Think Again

Trading Standards, Greater Manchester Police, Wigan and Leigh Housing, and Neighbourhood Teams at Wigan Council are working together to tackle a host of problems around Norley Hall Avenue in Pemberton, paying particular attention to the shops and flats which have been identified as a priority for all agencies involved.

Wigan Council's new state-of-the-art CCTV control room, is being used to focus on hot-spot areas and identify adults going into shops to buy alcohol and then passing it on to children.

The operation has already begun to net results - so far five adults are facing prosecution for buying bottles of booze and then handing them on to children in broad daylight.

Drink fuelled nuisance and anti-social behaviour has posed a problem in the area for some time.

Incidents range from violent behaviour, criminal damage, purchasing alcohol for youths.... the list is endless. Working in partnership to tackle the issues has been a great success in achieving a reduction in anti-social behaviour and criminal acts in this local area. Many home visits have been carried out to speak with parents of the alleged perpetrators of such nuisance behaviour and to date, 6 adults have been convicted of buying booze and handing it to children - in broad daylight!

In addition, Wigan and Leigh Housing have taken enforcement action against a persons tenancy, located above these shops, which has resulted in them losing their home. This flat was the centre of nuisance incidents and criminal behaviour for many months, causing distress and upset to the local community. Chief Trading Standards Officer



Wigan Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Service Manager Michell Woodburn, Chief Trading Standards Officer Julie Middlehurst and Wigan Police Divisional Licensing Officer PC Ian Liptrot in the council's new CCTV control room, plus shot of a CCTV camera in Wigan Town Centre.

Julie Middlehurst says: "We are all too aware of the problems that can be caused when children and young people get hold of alcohol. "Anti-social behaviour affects everyone and we are determined to make it as difficult as possible for young people to have access to alcohol." Julie adds: "You may think it is harmless, or that you are just doing someone a favour but you need to realise that if you buy booze for children you are taking

a very big risk."

"Thanks to this new operation there is a good chance you'll get caught and once you are, you're looking at a minimum £80 on-the-spot fine and possibly up to a £5,000 fine and a criminal record."

Trading Standards officers regularly visit the borough's shops and off licences to keep staff

informed of the laws and what their responsibilities are. "The vast majority of shops are working with us and doing their best to prevent the sale of alcohol to young people," says Julie. "But we will come down hard on those that are not. " Wigan and Leigh Housing, Greater Manchester Police, Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Teams would like to remind you that if you think you are doing someone a harmless favour, you need to realise that if you buy booze for children, you

are taking a very big risk, as you are committing a criminal offence.

If you suspect that someone is selling alcohol or buying alcohol for young children under the age of 18, please contact :
Trading Standards on
08454 04 05 06
(calls charged at local rate)
or
Greater Manchester Police
on 0161 872 5050.

Kiss My Butt

Last month Wigan Borough played host to the Oldham Theatre Workshop as they toured 22 of our secondary schools delivering their message about the perils of smoking to over 1400 pupils.

The 40 minute drama called "Kiss My Butt" was performed by 5 young cast members who took a range of parts to present this thought provoking tragedy about young love which is lost due to a smoking habit.

Adam O'Reilly started smoking with his school friends, a habit that they 'just did', but despite dreams about the dire health consequences of lighting up and the revelation that his best mate Wes has quit to please his girl-friend, Adam continues to smoke. A new girl, Haley Eve joins the class. She is lovely, the lads agree she is "unnecessarily fit",

"This is the best piece of theatre ever to have come to the school. The pupils were totally engaged" (Deputy Head Teacher)

Haley is also adamantly anti-smoking.

Adam falls in love and plucks up the courage to ask Haley Eve to the Valentines dance. She willingly agrees.

All goes well until the first kiss when Adam's guilty smoking secret is discovered and he is publicly ditched and humiliated by his new love. Adam is heart broken and the play finishes as he contemplates the lonely consequences of his smoking.

After the play the pupils are engaged in a workshop with the cast, to reinforce the learning and hear about the help that is available to pupils who need support to quit the habit. The play was brought into the schools by Wigan Council's Fair



Julie Searing & Rose Lee from Community Protection Section with the members of Oldham Theatre Workshop

Trading Team working in partnership with the Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT Smoking Cessation Service who are already working in some schools to support pupils and staff who wish to join the growing number of ex-smokers. Hopefully this service will soon be available in all schools to ensure that pupils who wish to quit are helped to do so before they suffer from the smoking related ailments of coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer or even a broken heart!

Who's Got The Bottle

This is an exciting project that we are undertaking, entitled "Who's Got the Bottle", and which involves Year 9 pupils from high schools right across the Borough.

A Trading Standards survey carried out in 2007, and which involved 900 14-17 year old pupils in the borough, revealed that 44% of them drank alcohol at least once a week.

The project which began in

September and will conclude in January 2009, involves lots of departments within the Council as well as Greater Manchester Police.

The aim of the project is to help and encourage young people (14/15 years of age) to investigate and understand the dangers associated with drinking alcohol. They will then work within their schools to develop a drama production to highlight their findings.

Drama teachers from each of the schools involved have been provided with lots of information associated with children and alcohol, to help them and the children create their drama.

Each of the schools involved will then have the children deliver their 10-15 minute "play", at a showcase event at Lowton Civic Hall over 3 nights, January 27th 28th and 29th. Parents and dignitaries will be invited to attend the event.

Notice Board

D.V.L.A. Has New Powers

On 1st October 2008, new powers were given to D.V.L.A. under an amendment to the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994. This legislation now allows D.V.L.A. officers and their agents to remove untaxed motor vehicles from any land or area owned or maintained by the Council, in addition to existing powers relating to removal of untaxed vehicles from public roads.

The Council's Enforcement Officers will assist D.V.L.A. agents to locate such vehicles.

D.V.L.A. have the power to seize, impound or clamp any untaxed motor vehicle and if need be, dispose of any motor vehicle not collected from the car pound or any motor vehicle having been clamped.

Before vehicles can be released, a towing in and storage fee must be paid, together with any back duty.

The owner must also pay for a further six months tax and produce a valid insurance certificate and if applicable, an M.O.T. certificate.

It is the responsibility of motor vehicle owners to ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy and have all necessary documentation if being used on any public road or Council owned property.

Care & Repair Have Changed

Arena Care & Repair Wigan has changed to:

Anchor Staying Put Wigan, 17- 24 Canal Street, Wigan, WN6 7NQ

Tel: 01942 825849 (the telephone number remains the same)

Anchor Staying Put exists to assist older, disabled and vulnerable people to 'stay put' at home if that is what they want, and we provide a range of advice and support services to enable that to happen. Our aim is to provide you with guidance and assistance to carry out whatever repairs, improvements or adaptations are necessary to help you to continue living in your own home.

We will help you through the process of having work carried out from beginning to end. And, as a not-for-profit organisation, our main concern is ensuring you receive the best possible service with the minimum worry.

They can:

- **Help if you need repairs, improvements or adaptations to your property**
- **Offer confidential advice, support and assistance**
- **Provide technical expertise with building works to your property**
- **Help you get information on different ways of paying for the work.**

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you are a member of a group or association and would like to receive a regular supply of this free newsletter

Ring 01942 827476

Or if you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail - send a message to ts@wigan.gov.uk to register your name and e-mail address

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Wigan
WN3 4HE**

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We're on the Web www.wigan.gov.uk/services/businessregeneration/tradingstandards