

The Insider



LOCAL PARTNERSHIP CREATES COMMUNITY COHESION

A MAJOR PARTNERSHIP initiative including United Utilities and Wigan Council has brought together a local area and college for an environmental community day on Thursday 30th June. Leading environmental regeneration charity Groundwork Wigan & Chorley & their counterparts at Groundwork St Helens, Knowsley, Sefton & Liverpool have been working on Millingford Brook, Golborne, to make it a safe and more aesthetically pleasing for residents and wildlife.

The project started late 2004 with a link between the two trusts, which was brought together by Action Sankey Waters and the event will highlight all the environmental improvements that have recently been done by the New Deal team with Groundwork. This included:- clearing the site of rubbish and vegetation from the brook Woodland management on the adjacent scrub land Coppicing an old hawthorn hedge which had gone straggly and was of no value to wildlife, but will now rejuvenate to thick bushy hedge Clearing paths of vegetation Removing all fly tipping and litter.

Jean Gidman, Project Officer for Groundwork Wigan & Chorley said: *"It has been fantastic to see the students at Winstanley College take part in this community event. On behalf of everyone at Groundwork Wigan & Chorley, and at Groundwork St Helens, I would like to thank them for*

all their hard work and effort. I would also like to thank everyone else who has been involved in such a worthwhile project,"

Improvements to the Environment on the day include: litter picking, 'Balsam Bashing', which is removing an invasive, non-native plant which was introduced in Victorian times, but is now rapidly taking over, and hindering the growth and regeneration of our own native wild flowers. The students will also be planting more native wild flowers, and painting the school fence which, has been repaired after vandalism.

Wigan Council's Community Development Officer, Andrea Marshall said: *"It has been a great opportunity for us to work with Groundwork and the event will highlight the good work achieved by all. Over the next year further clearance work will continue through the Wigan Transforming Your Space programme, which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Northwest Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme."*

Groundwork continues to build on its portfolio of land based projects. To find out more information on such projects please contact Groundwork Wigan & Chorley on: 01942 821444 email: wigan@groundwork.org.uk.

Inside this issue:

- Local Partnership
- Wigan Prince's Trust
- World Environment Day
- Wigan Business

TRUST TEAM TACKLES THORBURN

Wigan Prince's Trust Team 35 has joined forces with local building contractor Mears Ltd and Norley Hall Residents Committee to add a little colour to the lives of senior citizens at Thorburn House, as part of their 12-week personal development programme.

The team aim to remove three tarmac areas, which were originally part of the car park

the grounds of the senior citizen's resident's home, install raised flower beds and plant wild flowers. Mears have kindly donated all the materials for the garden and are going to project manage the refurbishment.

The Community Project is a key element of the Prince's Trust Programme, enabling young people to contribute positively to their community

by helping a non-profit making local organisation. It allows them to test out their organisational, communication and practical environmental skills, gaining donations from local companies and implementing the project.

For more information on the Prince's Trust Team programme contact Groundwork Wigan & Chorley on: 01942 821444

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAVAGANZA AT LEIGH

THE COMMUNITY CAME AND ENJOYED the festivities on Sunday 5th June at Leigh Environmental Education Centre, Hope Carr Barn, Hope Carr Terrace, Leigh.

United Utilities and Groundwork Wigan & Chorley joined forces to host a family fun day extravaganza in aid of World Environment Day, and to celebrate their United Futures partnership

United Futures aims to run for three years until 2007 to form links between Groundwork and United Utilities to deliver community and environmental projects across the UK. The partnership will demonstrate true sustainability by

benefiting local communities and helping address some key business issues for United Utilities.

Diane Glasgow, Environmental and Education Supervisor at Hope Carr Barn said: ***“World Environment Day is a global event that encourages us all to stop and think about the world we live in and the impact that we have on our environment.”***

There were lots of fun activities for families to join in including pond dipping, mini-beast hunting, a chance to invent and make your own mini-beast, badge making, face painting and lots more!

The event also marked the opening of a new sensory garden, which is

aimed at blind and partially sighted visitors, but which can be appreciated by everyone.

“The event and the new sensory garden are two of many initiatives planned at the Hope Carr site. The Education Centre and the grounds are definitely worth a visit and see other improvements that have taken place” said Groundwork’s Places Programmes Manager, Alison Whitehead.

Groundwork continues to build on it’s portfolio of land based projects. To find out more information on such projects please contact Groundwork Wigan & Chorley on: 01942 821444 email: wigan@groundwork.org.uk.

“More work is planned over the next few months at the main access points to Amberswood, aiming to make the area safer and more peaceful.”

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For more information on the Resource Efficiency Programme contact Groundwork Wigan & Chorley on: 01942 821444

JACKSON LLOYD LEAD FROM THE FRONT

Leigh Prince's Trust Team 11 have donned their overalls and picked up their paintbrushes to add a little colour to the AtTIC (Atherton Teenage Information Centre), which has been making a distinct difference to young people by offering help, advice and pointing them in the right direction with their queries on everything from health and well-being through to careers advice and what's going on in the community.

The AtTIC centre opened its doors to all young people on Monday 18th April. It is hoped that any young person from the local community will see the centre as a safe and secure place where they can go and speak to health and well being professionals on a confidential basis.

Josie Carter, Community Enterprise Officer for the Centre said: ***"Not only do we want a safe, secure and confidential service for local young people, we also want an attractive and***

welcoming place for them to come and spend time with health care specialists and other agencies. So the Prince's Trust teams' choice of our project was just what we needed. They have been fabulous, listened to what we wanted and contributed some excellent ideas. We hope to invite some of them back once the centre is fully refurbished."

The Community Project is a key element of the Prince's Trust Programme, enabling young people to contribute positively to their community by helping a non-profit making local organisation. It allows them to test out their organisational, communication and practical environmental skills, gaining donations from local companies and implementing the project.

Leigh Prince's Trust Team Leader, Liberty Haunch said: ***"The hard work and effort that the team has shown throughout the project has been***

fantastic and I must thank them for it. They have shown the true meaning of teamwork and I hope that everyone is as happy as I am with the project. I must also thank anyone who has donated materials or anyone who has been involved with the project, as without them there would be no community project."

The next stage for the team in the 12-week programme are work placements. This is where the team get the opportunity to experience life in the workplace for two weeks in a variety of fields. For more information on the Prince's Trust Team Programme, or alternatively any of Groundwork's youth programmes tel: 01942 821444
email: wigan@groundwork.org.uk

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For more information on any of
Groundwork Wigan & Chorley's
Programmes contact us on: 01942 821444
Fax: 01942 820347
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