

Engineering News *December 2005*

Information Bulletin from the Department of Engineering Services



Measure By Measure - Know Your Limit This Christmas

Christmas came early for Wigan shoppers as they found themselves at a party last week. Their hosts were road safety officers and there was plenty of fun, games and drink to be had.

Of course, the drink was alcohol-free and the games were all about testing your knowledge of measures. The special display in the town centre demonstrated that it's possible to have a Christmas full of the spirit but not full of wines, beers and spirits.

Road Safety Manager Julie Dagnall told the press: "In recent years, our taste in

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drink has widened...but not everyone knows that the measures have changed too: "Most wine is now 12 to 15 per cent proof, and most wine served in pubs is now in a 175ml glass. They are often marked 'small' with a 250ml glass marked 'regular'.

Julie's made her Christmas message to drivers very clear: "Don't risk it! It is worth considering that two 250ml glasses is roughly equivalent to a pint. A pint of 12 per cent wine contains approximately six alcoholic units. So, one glass of wine these days can equal three units, not one.

"Would you ever ask for a pint of wine?" And if you don't drink wine, Julie's done the maths for Stella: "One unit is equal to half a pint of average strength beer. So, that means a pint of Stella, which is 5.5 per cent, means three units. A couple of pints is likely to make you well over the limit."

On the day, the team gave out tasty alcohol-free cocktails for shoppers to sample, and there was opportunity for the 'beer goggle' test - wearing



special glasses that demonstrate the co-ordination problems of being over the limit.

The team's Christmas message is:

- Many drivers are stopped and arrested for drink-driving the next morning - Don't be one of them.
- A rule of thumb for calculating how long alcohol takes to get out of your system is an hour for each unit consumed. This means that if you stop drinking at 11pm after drinking four pints of lager (12 units), you could well be over the limit when driving to work in the morning.
- It is impossible to tell how many units would take you over the limit because it depends on many factors, such as your metabolism.
- The safest way is not to drink anything alcoholic if you are driving.

And here is one of Julie's special cocktail recipes that won't give you a red nose. It was just one of the many which were available to try at the event:

“The Rudolph”

- 100ml of cranberry juice
- 25ml orange juice
- 50ml grapefruit juice
- A squeeze of fresh lime

Pour the ingredients over ice into a tall glass and serve with a wedge of lime.

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A Bike's for Life, Not Just for Christmas

It's one of the best presents you could hope for - a new bicycle on Christmas morning. New found freedom for a child, a new hobby for an adult, a chance to get healthy for anyone.

But it's a familiar story: After a few months' use, that bicycle is relegated to the shed to gather dust. Perhaps it is a puncture that never gets repaired or worries about safe riding on the road, or even a couple of wet and windy days.

Getting to know how to take care of your bike isn't difficult, and now the Engineers' Local Transport Plan Delivery Group is making it even easier by giving away 50 FREE copies of a book that shows you all you need to know.

RoSPA's glossy *Bicycle Owner's Handbook* is a mine of information on how to maintain your bike, how to stay safe on the road and lots more handy hints and tips.

Travel Plan Co-ordinator James Noakes says: "Cycling can be great fun. It's good for your heart, good for the environment and often quicker than the car for getting to work. We've some great neighbouring countryside close by, so leisure



cycling is also something easy to get into as well."

Promoting the new handbook, James adds: "Taking care of your bike is often overlooked even though it is important for lots of reasons. So we are giving 50 people a chance to get this book for free to get a head start in ensuring they cycle safely and securely for years to come."

All residents have to do to be one of the lucky 50 who get hold of a FREE copy is write to James on a postcard or stuck-down envelope at the following address: Bicycle Book Offer, Department of Engineering Services, Civic Buildings, New Market Street, Wigan, WN1 1RP

And, for those not among the lucky ones, the top tips are also available online on the council's website.

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Christmas Waste Collections

Wigan Council has announced dates for household refuse and recycling collections.

If your normal collection day is: *Your Christmas / New Year bins collected:*

Monday	Monday 19 th Dec Wednesday 28 th Dec
Tuesday	Tuesday 20 th Dec Tuesday 3 rd Jan
Wednesday	Wednesday 21 st Dec Wednesday 4 th Jan
Thursday	Thursday 22 nd Dec Thursday 5 th Jan
Friday	Friday 23 rd Dec Friday 6 th Jan

There are also changes to the fortnightly paper recycling service. Residents are receiving information at home with their holiday collection dates.

Those properties involved in the garden and brown cardboard collection services will also see collections change over the holidays. Normal dates resume in the New Year.

Council waste management boss Dr Gary Taylor told the press: "I want to thank residents for their support and assistance in the last year, especially as we increase the recycling services available."

The year has seen a successful consolidation of the paper scheme and a trial of garden waste collections across a third of households.

Gary added: "By supporting paper recycling and the new green collections, residents have increased the borough's recycling rate to 15%. This saves council taxpayers' money and resources. Have a good Christmas and please take your festive recycling to the roadside collection points that have bottle and can banks."

Any changes to the revised collection timetable because of bad weather will be reported online and on the Streetcare Helpline service on 01942 404364.

And householders planning a big clear-out over the festive period or in early January are being reminded to book their recycling centre permits now.

Residents bringing household waste to one of the borough's household waste recycling centres in a car, with or without a single axle trailer (max three metres long) can visit without the need for a permit.

But you must have a permit in advance if you have a:

- Van or trade-type vehicle with no more than four wheels.
- Twin axle trailer (under three metres long).

The permits allow for one visit per month to a nominated site and must be handed in upon arrival.

Residents should call **01942 404366** between 8.45am and 5pm Monday to Friday to get a free permit.

Call centre manager Kerry Abel says: "No permits will be issued between December 23 and January 3, so please call us well in advance if you need a permit, and allow for the Christmas post. Vans and twin axle vehicles can only use the site with the right permit."

The borough's household waste recycling centres will be open over the festive season except on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. The sites may close early if they get full.

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Watch Your Step This Winter!

Walkers are being urged to put safety first this winter with some expert advice on how to avoid accidents on the move.

With the advent of dark nights and bad weather engineer's sustainable travel expert James Noakes is urging pedestrians to take care. And while walking or getting the bus can often be the quickest and most

enjoyable ways of getting from A to B but people must be aware of winter hazards.

James says: "The advice for pedestrians is to be really aware of their own safety because dark evenings mean poorer visibility. The council is using more modern white street lighting in many locations and this is effective in improving people's feelings of security."

There's also the annual warning for motorists not to drink and drive and to take extra care (see our lead article).

"Don't take any chances simply because you may be in a rush," says James. "Others can be in a rush as well and then the risk of an accident becomes much higher."

James says there are plenty of alternatives to congested roads this winter: "Why not beat the jams by walking to the shops or hopping on a bus, or even using home delivery or the internet?" he asks. "We want people to be walking more whether it is to the shops or for pleasure because it is healthy and helps to reduce traffic. But with the party season starting please be careful particularly if you are walking after drinking. Think about getting a bus or taxi. With the number of night buses now operating in Wigan this may be an ideal solution."

As many as seven out of 10 young adult pedestrians killed on UK roads have been drinking. The message is to make full use of your travel options but to be careful on the highways as the nights get longer.

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The Green Light of Christmas

The festivities are back on for Robert and Joyce Cox of Abram thanks to the council's monthly recycling competition.

"It's a wonderful surprise," says winner Joyce. "We'd had to choose between Christmas and a holiday to help me get over being poorly."

The Parklands couple, who have just celebrated 38 years of marriage, decided on a relaxing break in Cala Bona, Mallorca, and so were expecting a quiet festive season.

But then recycling expert Karen Sutcliffe called with the news that they'd won the Sack Race recycling competition.

Every month for the last year, the Mayor has been selecting at random a household who has been putting out their paper sack. The Sack Race winners receive £500 in shopping vouchers from the government's Waste and Resource Action Programme.

Also in their gift sack are recycling goodies and information. "This will be perfect for our grandson Craig," says Robert Cox. "He's always been interested in green issues and is now studying the environment at university. We're all big supporters of recycling!"

Avid local newspaper reader Robert told the council's Karen Sutcliffe they often manage to fill two sacks and really welcome the ease of recycling from home. "It's not before time!" he laughs. The council wants to extend its recycling efforts, and the monthly prize

competition has helped to encourage more residents to join in.

The previous winner was Atherton's Alison Muddiman. The Lovers Lane resident also netted £500 of vouchers in the November draw.



Alison and her partner John are already keen recyclers thanks to a trip down under. In Australia all households must separate recyclable materials at home and the habit has stuck with Alison.

"We take our bottles and cans back to the supermarket and put them in the recycling banks on the car park before buying new things," she says.

Alison was thrilled with her £500 windfall. "It's a lovely gift," she said. "I'm off to tell the neighbours to get their paper sacks out for a chance of winning...and then I'm going shopping!"

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Christmas Cheer... Empties In Here

Let's face it Christmas is rubbish!

Don't get us wrong, we love the season of goodwill but with all the waste that

goes with it, Christmas could just as easily be the *season of landfill*.

Think about the millions of Christmas cards, bottles and cans, wrapping paper, even the tin foil your mince pies are wrapped in. It all looks great on the big day but it's all too quickly just another mountain of waste that needs to be removed.

Recycling experts with Wigan Council have just one wish for this Christmas - *The Waste Must Stop!*

"Don't bin it, recycle it!" says Recycling Officer Dave Bullock. "Residents have told us they want to be able to take their empties back when they go shopping, so we have provided 120 local sites, many on supermarket car parks. Don't forget that the glass banks take jars and the can banks will take clean tin foil, aerosols and food tins."

At Christmas time these sites can often become victims of their own success, so Dave has arranged for extra banks at some of the borough's busiest locations, including Tesco in Wigan, Asda in Leigh and Sainsbury's at Marus Bridge.

And a new site was launched this month in Lowton at the busy Co-op and community centre on Church Lane.

There are also five household waste recycling centres around the borough, at Makerfield Way, Higher Ince; Orrell Road, Orrell; Slag Lane, Leigh; Chanters Industrial Estate, Atherton and Frog Lane, Wigan. They are open all year round except Christmas and New Year's Day.

Remember that your Christmas cards can be recycled too," adds Dave. "There will be facilities at Tesco and WH Smith in January for your old cards. Last year

in the UK more than 58 million cards were collected for recycling, but that's still only the equivalent of less than one per person, so there's some way to go."

Natural Christmas trees are also recyclable. They can be taken to one of the borough's household waste sites or one of the country parks during the first weeks of January. Residents with green wheelie bins can leave their trees, minus its decorations, by their bin on collection day.

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From Green to Gold



On Golden Gong: Sir John Harman presents the Green Apple award to Wigan's green gurus Steve Topping (centre) and Paul Dandy

Going green gets you the gold.

That's the message from Wigan's own eco-warriors after lifting a major national gong for keeping the borough tidy.

Wigan Council's Street Scene Team was at the House of Commons last month to rub shoulders with some of the country's leading environmental experts as part of this year's Green Apple Awards.

Now established as one of the world's biggest eco-reward schemes, more than a thousand groups including community-based teams, councils and companies entered this year's awards.

The winners were guests of Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt, and the Street Scene Team received their golden gong for Environmental Best Practise from the chair of the Environment Agency Sir John Harman.

The team is working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to improve the green spaces in the borough, plant bulbs and landscape grot spots.

The Green Apple judges described the council's Street Scene strategy as follows: "Working with schools, community groups and others, they have helped to improve more than 50 key landscapes at gateway sites, strategic routes and in town centre locations. Thousands of bulbs and 300 trees have been planted."

As well as the award the team's success will be recorded in an international reference work on environmental best practice entitled *Green Heroes*.

The team is managed by the council's Street Scene section and funding through the Engineering Services and Planning & Regeneration Departments. It's made up of volunteers and people taken from the New Deal programme.

Street Scene boss Paul Dandy was on hand to accept the award with volunteers' manager Steve Topping.

Paul said: "Wigan is one of the top winners and I'm only too happy to thank everyone for their efforts. We will be

back next year after continuing our efforts to improve the street scene for residents across our borough."

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Zebra Spotting In Aspull

Forget about the sun-seared plains of the Serengeti because the best place to see a zebra is Aspull!

And this zebra is one that carries children and adults across the road safely.

Residents of Haigh Road, pupils from Our Lady's Primary and members of the nearby youth club can now get across the B5239 in style thanks to a brand new pedestrian crossing which opened in November.

Locals have eagerly awaited a new crossing point, and the scheme has gone ahead as part of Our Lady's School Travel Plan, with extra funding from the Brighter Borough budgets of ward councillors Chris Ready and John Hilton and the final approval of Wigan's Traffic Management Unit, the new crossing went ahead.

Gathering at the new crossing with community leaders, pupils and Councillor Hilton, Councillor Ready said: "I am pleased to declare this new crossing open. This is just part of the overall road safety strategy for Aspull. We've been working with Aspull Forum for many years on safety issues: this only goes to show what you can achieve by working together."

He added: "The response from the Aspull community has been very



positive - the crossing not only helps people across the road but also slows traffic down. We will continue to work to improve the safety on our roads in Aspull, New Springs and Whelley."

Area Traffic Engineer Paul Ryding added: "The Engineering Services Department is working on schemes to make safety and road improvements on the four main roads into Aspull village centre. We've had approval to further develop our plans for this site to provide a zebra crossing facility with help from the councillors."

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Residents shape the future of local transport

Local residents have been helping to shape the future of transport in the borough by commenting on the 2nd Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan, which set out proposals for how transport could be improved in the area.

Every five years, authorities in Greater Manchester put the Local Transport Plan (LTP) together, setting out priorities and actions to benefit users of all forms of transport, to improve road safety and accessibility.

Top priority for those responding from across Greater Manchester was an improvement to the tram network. Amongst the top issues which concern Wigan Borough, 66% of respondents gave the highest priority to encouraging drivers to reduce their speed and 71% saw introducing speed management measures as either a top or medium priority.

69% of respondents saw improved public transport links to local amenities as a high priority, with 72% saying increasing the number of bus lanes and bus ways was either a top or medium concern.

Transport planner Carmel Foster-Devine is responsible for delivering the LTP in Wigan. She says: "Issues like better bus services and safer roads are generally considered to be 'A Good Thing', but it is important to see results like this which clearly show that the public support issues like bus lanes and speed reduction. I'd like to thank residents for getting involved."

Local consultation with borough residents continues to show a strong support for measures to improve the safety of streets.

Carmel adds: "I want to encourage residents to use their vote when we ask them about schemes... and I also want to encourage them to think about alternatives to the car culture as they commute, shop and take their children to school."

Other results from the November survey include: 82% who see the promotion of walking and cycling as priority; 81% wanting improvements to bus shelters and the most frequent suggestions: cheaper bus and rail travel and improved night time services.

You can see more on the council website on the A-Z of services under L for Local Transport Plan, or at www.gmltp.co.uk.

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Beating the (Litter) Bugs



Wigan's streets are getting cleaner - fact!

The latest survey results show a massive improvement on 2003/4 when Wigan returned a disappointing score for metropolitan borough cleanliness.

Since then, training for staff, the Kick Litter Into Touch campaign, together with tough fines for litter bugs, have had a massive effect, both on the scores and, crucially, the amount of litter being dropped.

Street Scene's Paul Dandy says: "It's good to know we're starting to beat the litter bugs. But we really do need the help of every resident to keep our streets looking clean. The message is *Bin Your Waste - Be Proud Of Where You Live!*"

The statistics show that cleanliness in the borough has improved by 17 per cent over the last year.

Satisfaction with the condition of the streets is also improving. In 2003, the Street Scene team asked members of

the Citizens' Panel what they thought of the local environment. Just 40 per cent were satisfied with the cleanliness of their streets. But this summer's panel results saw that figure rise to 57 per cent.

Also this summer Encams (formerly the Tidy Britain Group) wrote to the Chief Executive's Department to praise the 'swift and remarkable turnaround' in the council's achievements, 'which now places Wigan around the top half of local authorities' in terms of tidiness.

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr David Molyneux, said: "This is great news for the borough and it's well done to everyone for making an effort to keep the borough tidy.

"In the last couple of years we've invested in new road sweepers and new bins. Let's all continue to work hard to thwart the efforts of the litter bugs in our community and keep our streets clean for everyone to enjoy."

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St Wilfrid's has the brightest children

The borough's brightest children belong to St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School in Ashton-in-Makerfield - thanks to Wigan Council.

As part of the nation-wide 'Be safe and be seen' campaign, the council's road safety experts teamed up with technology firm 3M to make sure the school's children were clearly visible on the streets as the dark nights drew in.

It's parents' responsibility to ensure their children get to school safely each day,



Clare Orrell (headteacher), Andy Allen (Travel Plan Co-ordinator), Julie Clarke (3M PR team) and pupils from each class of St Wilfrid's, Ashton.

but to lighten the load 3M provided over 100 high-visibility vests for use by 7-10 year olds, teachers and helpers for wear near busy roads.

Headteacher Clare Orrell says: "The vests will be an invaluable resource for when we go out on school trips. At this time of year, it is particularly important that children can be seen after dark and in bad weather, when drivers and riders may not be able to see as clearly."

Andy Allen, Road Safety Officer, explains: "We have helped the school to work out a travel plan to promote safer and greener ways of getting to school. Now I'm also working with them on the idea of using a 'walking bus' to let the children walk to school together under

adult supervision, with everyone wearing reflective jackets - so this is a very timely offer.

"In any case, during the dark days of autumn and winter we encourage parents to make sure their children wear bright, fluorescent or reflective clothing to ensure they can be seen whatever the conditions. And drivers also need to take care and look out for children especially near schools, parks and residential areas."

The local campaign is part of a wider road safety initiative by the company, involving more than 50,000 vests being distributed to schools close to 3M sites up and down the country.

And 3M's Lynn Moores adds: "We chose to target Key Stage 2 pupils for this campaign as this is the age when children may start walking or cycling to school independently."

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Sweet Sign of Mine

Talented young artist Callum Stewart has just secured his first successful exhibition...and it's just round the corner from his home.

Callum, who hails from Leigh's Trees Estate, has created an eye-catching sign to remind residents and drivers of the dangers of speeding traffic.



Callum's designs won him a prize in Wigan Council's People and Places Environmental Challengers Team awards, which gives young people the chance to improve the environment where they live.

Copies of his sign will be displayed at various locations across the Trees Estate.

The competition was organised with the help of the Trees Estate Community Board, which was set up three years ago to address issues facing the residents. The board is supported by the council, Wigan and Leigh Housing, Greater Manchester Police and other organisations.

The Environmental Challengers Team is a group for children on the estate aged seven to 11 and looks at improving environmental issues.

Trees Estate Community Protection Officer Nicola Lowe said: "Through resident surveys, road safety was highlighted as a significant problem. Callum's sign will help to explain the danger of speeding traffic and be a constant reminder to people to drive with care."

People and Places Manager Nick Burdekin, added: "Thanks to the Trees Estate Community Board, we've been able to set up the Environmental Challengers who are dedicated to improving the area."

"One of the main aims of the group is to work with some of the youngsters to show them the value of living in a clean and green environment."

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Ten More Heroes - Campaign Collects Recruits for Crossing Patrols

Road safety bosses are delighted with the results of recent publicity for their school crossing patrols.

The Unsung Heroes campaign, launched in Wigan Market Place, which

featured cartoon patrols with special powers to control the traffic, together with publicity in the council's residents' magazine, has seen interest in the lollipop service rocket.

Julie Dagnall, Road Safety Manager says: "I'm delighted with everyone's expressions of interest. We've had more than 10 promising applications from residents who want to help their communities. It's a paid job, and with patrols in their thirties and their seventies, it really is open to anyone."

Although the council doesn't have to provide a patrol service, Julie feels it is an important part of the life of the school and community. "There are several sites where we would like to see a patrol," she adds, "if you want to become a superhero to children and grown ups alike, why not join us?"

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Another Good Deed...

They may be cubs but when it comes to getting tough on litter the Standish pack have gone grizzly!

The 1st Standish Cub Scouts have signed up to the council's 30-day environmental clean-up campaign.

After their solemn duties recalling the past at the Remembrance Day ceremony, about 20 cubs looked to the future and completed a litter-pick around Standish.

The pack was also raising money for the annual Children in Need appeal as they cleaned up in the area around bridleway near Somerfield.

The Street Scene team has worked with the group before. Team member Jonathan Bilsborough said: "We're currently working with many schools and groups across the borough as part of our 30-Day Environment Campaign. It's great working with the cubs to improve their local environment as it also helps the council meet its wider aims for everyone."

Christine Thompson, Group Scout Leader, added: "Everyone wins. The cubs are supporting Children in Need, they are working to improve the environment in Standish and also be completing aspects of their badge work. And we had a great time as well!"

The Street Scene team is involved with enhancing the local environment across the borough and works with many local groups on landscaping, litter picks and bulb planting. If you have a project you need advice on, or want to join in, you can ring the team on 01942 705245.

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Crossing Champions - 'Super' Teams Star Night

Wigan's army of lollipop men and women were honoured for years of selfless, unstinting service at a special awards' ceremony in Hindley.

Mayor Cllr Brian Jarvis presided over a glittering ceremony to celebrate the work done all year round and in all weathers by school crossing patrols.

Road Safety Manager Julie Dagnall says: "Our school crossing patrols have a crucial role to play, protecting lives and helping children get to class. At a time when we really need new recruits to join us, we are taking time to thank

our loyal and friendly team for their great work."

The awards are presented every two years, and it's a rare chance for the patrols, who are based at sites across the borough, to meet up and socialise.

Council Cabinet Member for the Environment Cllr David Molyneux presented awards for no absences or sick leave to:

Jim Atherton, Margaret Taberner, Kathleen Pilling, Joyce Atherton, Linda Marsh, Deborah Smith, Barbara Meadows, Doreen Leece, Norma Taylor, Kathleen Howard, Sheila Robson, Doreen Horrobin, Peter Gilbert and Maureen Hurley.

Paul Wood received a special award for no absences in eight years, while Edith Sykes received an award for no

absences during 11 years on patrol.

Mayor Cllr Jarvis presented Bronze (10 year) long service awards to:

Ann Parr, Doreen Horrobin, Edith Sykes, Susan Ethel Oakes, Sylvia Ann Hilton, Ann Myres, Kathleen Howarth, Rita Fairhurst, Josephine Phyllis Smith and William Atherton.

Silver awards (15 years) went to Christine Genovese, Brenda Diane Millington and Sandra Stanley.

Gold Standard: Mayor of Wigan Cllr Brian Jarvis and Cabinet Member for the Environment Cllr David Molyneux present Gold long service awards to Helen Coleman and Christine Sweeney (rear) and Irene Roberts (centre).



Gold (20 years) awards were presented to: Kathleen Pilling, Christine Sweeney, Barbara Lamb, Irene Dutch, Helen Coleman, Patricia Ann Marsh and Irene Roberts.

Some patrols have been on duty even longer and will be honoured at a separate ceremony later in the years.

They are Margaret Joyce Burgoyne MBE, who started as a patrol at New Springs Holy Family in 1971, and retires soon.

Mary Magdalen Gaskell began as a patrol in 1979, and retires after more than 20 years good humoured service in the Poolstock area while Barbara Lamb has served Pemberton since 1984 and is also due to retire soon.

The road safety team recently launched it 'unsung heroes' campaign to highlight the work of the crossing patrols. Dramatic artwork accompanies a media message going into schools to show the 'superheroes' in comic-book scenarios, saving the day.



Julie Dagnall told the press she was delighted with the response to the campaign so far but are keen to remind residents that they could apply for the

paid job of crossing patrol by calling 01942 488250.

And, never one to turn down a challenge, Mayor Jarvis himself became a superhero for the day. When Hindley Green crossing patrol Norma Taylor (pictured) spoke to Cllr Jarvis at the awards ceremony, she asked if he would like to join her on duty at her Thomas Street point.

And when the call to action comes, the first citizen is always there, even in the drizzle of a cold November morning!

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One last turn

Some of Wigan Council's longest serving officers were summoned to the town hall last month to 'touch base' with their managers one last time.

But it was only to say "thank you" for their work in the past, as the Engineering Services Department staged its annual 'Long Service Awards', where the top brass welcome back employees for a final toast.

Those invited were:

- David Coop of Atherton, who worked the trade refuse round in the east of the borough.
- Richard Hooton of Standish, who worked for Leigh Building Services for 21 years.
- Edmund Wilson of Farnworth, a plumber with Leigh Building Services since 1975.
- Joyce Burgoyne MBE, a crossing patrol in New Springs since 1971.

- Barbara Lamb of Kitt Green, a lollipop lady in Pemberton since 1984
- Mary Magdalen Gaskell of Worsley Mesnes, a patrol since 1979 in Poolstock.
- Jack Birtwistle of Orrell, popular member of the refuse team in the Orrell/Appley Bridge area since 1970.
- Bob Carty of Marus Bridge, a joiner since 1979.
- Tom Clancy of Pemberton, on the town centre trade refuse round since 1979.
- Barbara Cooksey of Hindley Green, who began as a school crossing patrol in 1975 and became a supervisor in 1990.
- John Jervis of Hindley.
- Jean Southworth, school crossing patrol since 1988 in the Ashton and Stubshaw Cross areas.
- Meryick Jolley of Winstanley, a well respected highways inspector, who began his career in 1959 as a paviour for the old Wigan County Borough.
- Frank Ogden of Hindley, who was a painter for 31 years with Leigh Building Services, retiring at 65.
- Mike Shiels of Wigan, who began as an apprentice bricklayer in



Cllr David Molyneux, Cabinet Member for the Environment, is pictured with Jack Birtwistle, Frank Ogden, Gary Wilkinson, Tom Clancy, director Peter Taylor, Mary Gaskell and Barbara Cooksey at November's gathering for retired engineering officers.

1977, and progressed to become a scheduler and also spent time seconded with Wigan & Leigh Housing.

- Gary Wilkinson of Leigh, a plumber with the building team since 1971, he progressed to becoming a chargehand working with managers.

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Cleaning up for charity

Things were picking up for engineering boss Peter Taylor as he spent a day as a town centre street cleaner.

It was the director's latest challenge for *Children in Need*. Each year in support of the popular BBC charity event, Peter



Taylor goes back to the shop floor to get hands on experience and raise much-needed cash for underprivileged children in the UK and Africa. Peter did his bit around Wigan town centre, armed

with the very latest in cleaning machine technology.

Peter said: "Every year, Engineering Services raises money for Children in Need. I've taken calls on the telephone helpline, done duty as a lollipop man and completed the paper recycling rounds. It's a fun way to play our part and support a tremendous cause."

The director underwent a thorough training session before taking up his cleaning work and, as ever, Peter fundraised on a day's leave from his office-based duties, raising a total of £490.19.

There is a detailed programme of street cleaning every day in the borough, with the town centres and so-called 'grot spots' receiving daily attention. All the streets the council is responsible for receive cleaning as part of a regular routine.

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