



EY UP!



It's Wigan West Community News

AUTUMN EDITION
2023





Welcome to the Autumn 2023 Edition of **Ey Up - It's Wigan West Community News**

This newsletter is brought to you by Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow CommUnity, a mutual aid group with the aim of connecting the community and making this a great place to live, work and play.

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More About Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow Community

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Ey Up - It's Wigan West Community News.

Thanks to investment from Awards for All & a contribution from Brighter Boroughs, we've been able to produce an Autumn 2023 edition.

Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow is a community group that grew out of the pandemic.

We focus on what's strong so we can become stronger and then work together on what's wrong to make this community a great place to live, work and play.

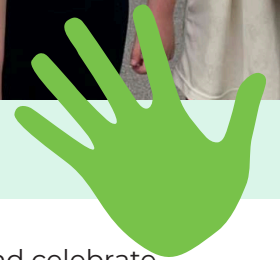
We believe we have lots of skills, passions and talents in the community; and if we connect them, we'll achieve great things for the common good of us all.

This community is our community.

This is Our Place.



Our Story - Continued



In the first edition we shared a timeline of memorable moments that we've shared together since the community group started.

Here's what we've been up to since February this year.

FEB 2023 Regular gardening sessions started up again at St Anne's Community Garden. Local people coming together to grow fruit, veg and flowers free for the community.

MARCH On March 29th, we hosted the first community Afternoon Tea. After a visit to a similar event in Netherton a group of women got together and brought food, fun and afternoon dancing to this community.

A group of women with a passion for creativity and kids started the family craft club. It's every Tuesday straight from school at St Anne's Community Centre. Donations keep the club running.

MAY The Thursday morning social group found a new home in the Hub at Beech Hill Primary School, thanks to the kindness of the school. It's open every Thursday during term time from 9am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 7th May saw neighbours getting together for Picnic in the Park to have a good

time together and celebrate the coronation. Around 250-300 people joined in and a thoroughly good time was had by all.



On Sat 13th May, we held a community party that included this community group's Annual General Meeting. We shared the results from the community survey, where we all agreed that it would be good to have more parties to bring us together.



We hosted two community play days during the half-term holidays, one at St Andrew's School and one at St Anne's Community Centre. We'd really like to thank both of the venues for the way they contribute to the community.

JUNE Children and young people from Year 6 at Beech Hill Primary School worked alongside Media Cubs to explore what community means to them and learn new skills in journalism at the same time.



We hosted a Community Cash event at St Anne's Community Centre. This event was called Cake and Cash, as we ate cake together whilst deciding which community ideas to invest in.

We hosted our second Afternoon Tea on 21st June, this time at St Anne's Community Centre. Everyone had a great time. It was great to see people from St Andrew's Parish Centre attend and then host their own afternoon tea for parishioners to raise funds for the Church. Penny Arcade is becoming an afternoon tea classic.

JULY We joined up with Wates to tackle some green spaces in the community.

The Playbox arrived at Beech Hill Play Park for a couple of weeks of community play. What fun we had.

AUGUST The 3rd annual Springfield Dog Show took place on the 9th of August after being rained off in July.

We hosted amazing play days at Diggle St Park, St Andrew's School and St Anne's Community Centre.

SEPTEMBER The annual community awards event took place on the 14th September, what a great evening that was.

On the same day Ben launched Community Toolmates, a group for men who like to get stuck in doing good stuff to help the

community. They meet once a fortnight on a Thursday morning.

We had our first Apple Day in the community garden, picking apples, printing and sharing delicious homemade cakes. Neighbours also brought their own produce to share with the community.



We hosted the 3rd community afternoon tea, again at St Anne's Community Centre. This is fast becoming a much loved part of community life.

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Ey Up, Let's Party

In November last year, we ran a survey on the community Facebook group and hosted some conversation groups in the community to see what people think and feel about living around here.

One thing we heard loud and clear is that parties bring people together and we want more opportunities to party and play together.

So that's the plan! We enjoyed two parties in May. The first one was at Diggle St Park on Sunday 7th May. Neighbours came together for a Picnic in the Park and to celebrate the Coronation of the King. Around 250-300 people joined in, and a thoroughly good time was had by all, with so many people commenting about how great it was to see the park so well used.

Over the afternoon, face painting was provided by Lisa, a community member who recently set up her business after successfully pitching at Community Cash.

Caroline George, a local singer, entertained us for an hour, and it was great to see her



Mum dancing along to her tunes. There was a bubble workshop from Ebulio, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A coronation-themed arts and crafts table was hosted by Vicky and loved by children. And children (and adults!) enjoyed the inflatable slide. Thanks to Brenda and her stewarding. It's no mean task keeping order on the inflatables.

We could put the party on for free thanks to a successful funding application to Awards for All.

The second party, the community party, was hosted at St Anne's Community Centre on 13th May. It was a glorious sunny day, and we couldn't have picked a better afternoon to party.

It was also an opportunity to hold the Annual General Meeting for this community group. A little area was set up where people could learn more about the group, look at the annual report and accounts and decide if they'd like to get more involved.

The group meets once every two weeks for 90 minutes. After the party, we welcomed Sandra, Phil, Brenda, Sam, Lisa, Ben and Vicky to the organising group.

On the day, we also enjoyed tricks from a magician, tried out balloon modelling and watched Ryan almost melt as we listened to him singing in the garden. Sam made sandwiches and a scone for adults, and there were hot dogs and ice cream for the kids.



The Springfield Dog Show

Wednesday, 9th August, saw the much-awaited 3rd Annual Springfield Dog Show. It really was third time lucky as the rain had stopped play on the previous two Wednesdays.

The dog show is a real community affair and wouldn't happen without the contribution of so many people.

The Show began when we noticed local people's passion for dogs and concern about dog poo. We put the two together, and the dog show has enabled us to buy and maintain 6 dog poo bag dispensers located on Springfield Road, Toulston Road, Buckley Street West, Beech Hill Lane and two on Gidlow Lane.

This year, Dean took over the reins of compering the dog show and did a brilliant job.

We had 9 categories and the Best in Show award.

Child Handler 8 and under
sponsored by the Dog Groomer & Software Solutions

1st Place: Eleanor and Dexter
2nd Place: Esme with Otis
3rd Place: Emily with Earl



Child Handler 9 and over
sponsored by Flexible Therapy

1st Place: Amelia and Jefferson
2nd Place: Jay with Otto
3rd Place: Matthew with Jackson

Waggiest Tail
sponsored by Elite Aesthetics

1st Place: Charlie and Emma
2nd Place: Dexter and Emma
3rd Place: Freya and Jackie

Best Rescue
sponsored by Pets and Pals

1st Place: Pedro and Charlotte.
2nd Place: Polly and Louise
Third Place Cilla and Donna

Golden Oldie
sponsored by Paws for Thought

1st Place: Rudy and Donna
2nd Place: Poppy and Jackie
3rd Place: Archie and Gill

Cutest Pup
sponsored by Gill and Ryan

1st Place: Freda and Meryl
2nd Place: Luna and Louise
3rd Place: Freya and Jackie

Prettiest Bitch
sponsored by Bec Spencer Designs

1st Place: Scarlet and James
2nd Place Luna and Gaynor
3rd Place: Lola supported and Lee

Handsome Male
sponsored by Ace Gas North West

1st Place: Hunter and Tara
2nd Place: Doug and Karen
3rd Place: Dalton Blue and Kay

Catch a Sausage
sponsored by the community group

1st Place: Jefferson
2nd Place: Dexter
3rd Place: Fudge

Best in Show
sponsored by Springfield Dog Walker

He announced that Pedro with Charlotte was the overall winner. Charlotte was over the moon.

A big thank you goes to John, Springfield Dog Walker, who does much of the behind-the-scenes organising, supported by Gill and brings in great raffle prizes from Wigan Rugby.

A whole team of people get involved behind the scenes in organising and helping on the day, so thank you to Lisa, Phil, Megan, Jo, Vicky, Mervyn, Angela and Dean, who did a brilliant job compering.



In total, £424 was raised on the day. £45 from stalls, £185 on registrations and £164 on the raffle.

Thank you to all the sponsors for the events and to those who generously contributed. Vets4Pets provided the rosettes again.

And we had wonderful support from local businesses for the raffle from Hannah Simon's, Sunrise, Software Solutions Ltd, Tim's La Mama, Gidlow Plaice, Fired Wok, the Launderette, Unique Hair, Elite Aesthetics, Clipped Dog Grooming, Pets and Pals, Greens Bed and Furniture

Place and Stanley's Snacks. Take a look in the Facebook group at the albums and videos.

And thanks, too, to the Diggers Festival organisers for the loan of the benches and to Highfield Grange FC for the rope.

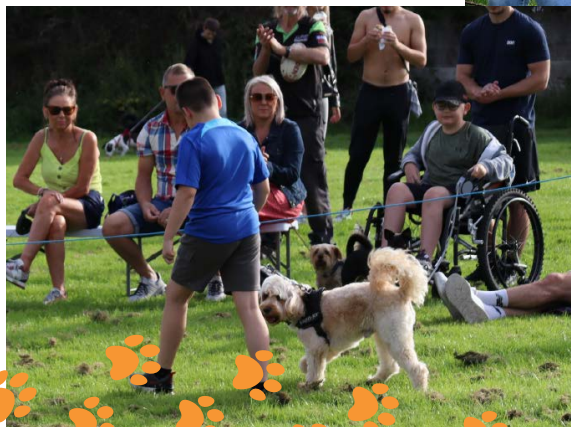
We also have a group of people who fill the poo bag dispensers with a supply of bags once a week, so thank you also to Nadia, Amanda, Rebecca, Elise, Gill and John.

What's lovely to see is dogs and children growing with us. Children who started showing their dogs at 5 in the under 8 category about to move age brackets and new pandemic-purchased pups are now all grown up, returning and taking part.

Some are taking rosettes in grown-up woofer categories!

And thanks to True Level Media for capturing amazing photos of the Show.

See you next year. Fingers crossed for better weather!



Community Awards 2023

Thursday, 14th September, saw our 2nd annual community awards event. Hosted in the nearby Wigan Sports Club, it was another magical evening which revealed more amazing people and places in our community.



TOMMY

The nomination forms were available all through the month of July in community spaces, including local church halls and shops, as well as online.

This year, the awards were split into 8 categories, to give people some ideas about who could be nominated and also to encourage people to think a bit more about our young people.

The categories were: Young Community Member, Places of Welcome, Community Minded Business, Welcoming Neighbour, Community Connector, Community Care Taker, Local Worker and Most Playful and Community Minded Street.

We were blown away to receive a whopping 97 nominations for 58 people or places.

After being greeted on arrival with a drink and shown to their tables, guests were treated to a quick welcome before an

energetic and complex dance routine performed by dancers from local FLD Dance.

The **Young Community Member** awards were given out by Vicky, a member of the organising circle, who gave up her nomination to help with the planning of the event.

It's fair to say the room was overwhelmed by the inspiring young people doing great things in our community, such as running businesses, being Young Leaders and raising money for charities.

Community Care Takers were up next, and local community gardeners, pantry organisers and litter pickers received their awards for their tireless and selfless dedication to looking after our community, including Jude and Victoria, who were nominated and, in turn, nominated others.

A host of **Community Connectors** were awarded with a strong presence from St Andrew's Community (church, community & school) who, as well as having many Community Connectors, were also nominated as **Place of Welcome**.

Lots of **Local Workers** were nominated, including Ice Cream National Award Winner Raheim and Local Shop Manager David,

street party to celebrate as we couldn't fit everyone in on the evening.

A few local businesses were awarded for being community-minded, including Spoons Café and Deli and Michelle at Bird'th Hand.

Last year, Phyll Cullen was presented with a trophy for her long service to the community, both as a community activist

Not an easy decision to make, but there could only be one award, and it went to Young Community Member Tommy, who received 7 nominations after starting his own business, raising Autism awareness and donating to charity.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt speech from 2 time nominated Community Connector Vera, who reminded us all to be thankful to everyone



BELLE



ALICE



DAVID

who received an unprecedented 12 nominations for his dedication to looking after his customers.

Pearl Street, Colliery Meadow and Thickness Avenue were nominated as **Welcoming Streets** in our community,

and then as a councillor.

This year, Phyll sponsored an award, the **Councillors Award** and chose one of the nominees who'd received more than 3 nominations to present an award to.

in day-to-day life for the little things as well as the big things.

You can see the full story and all nominees online on the Springfield Gidlow Beech Hill website.



MARGARET, DAVID & JUDE



VERA

showing how friendly streets can really make a difference in our lives, helping each other out, partying together or watching each other's kids.

Each street nominated also has the option of £100 towards a

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Community Cash

Investing in local people's ideas

Since November 2022, and thanks to some funds from Northern Heart and Soul CiC, we've been able to put small amounts of cash directly into local people's hands.

Supporting ideas for the common good and enabling local business ideas that are of benefit to the community to grow.

Once all the ideas have been heard, the votes are counted, usually by a young person, and news is shared and money is released the next day.

Support to keep track of the money is offered by a community group member if needed and whoever receives investment returns to the next gathering to report back and share their story.

So far, we've invested in Phil's community bike club, which is now raising enough funds to

"It was really nerve-wracking to do it, to get up and pitch your idea. It was really nice, though, that people believed in what I was wanting to do and said yes."

LISA

Since setting up the business, Lisa has been paid to provide face painting at a couple of community events as well as supporting some charity events, she's also been booked for private parties and christenings.

If you are interested at looking at the packages that Lisa offers, then you can find her on Facebook at Lisa Sedgwick or ring WhatsApp at 079152418457



The gatherings, which happen once every few months, change their name depending on what we eat together while listening to the pitches. So far, we've had Cash and Chips, Pies and Pounds and Cash and Cake.

The idea behind the gatherings is simple. Local people pitch their ideas to other members of the community. Between £200 and £250 is up for grabs to get things going. Whoever is in the room has a vote. We decide together.

Community voters choose one of four options. 1. Fund the idea 2. Part fund the idea 3. Like the idea, it just needs more work 4. Don't support the idea

look after itself; a community defibrillator which has been part funded by Brighter Borough, a face painting business; a litter picking trolley; a Christmas show; arts materials for the family craft club and gardening materials for Give it a Grow at St Anne's Community Centre.

Lisa Sedgwick pitched for £250 to get her face painting business going. She had the skills and just needed a little bit of cash to buy the equipment and get herself insured.



If you have an idea or would like to come along and listen to others pitch then the next event is on the evening of the 21st November.

Sign up to the community whatsapp for updates.



COMMUNITY PLAY

A Community that Plays together stays together, and we've most definitely had a summer of play.

And it's spreading, as more people get to know about the free playful offerings during the school holidays.

We've had a pretty amazing time together.

In the May half term, we hosted two community play days.

A safari-themed day with a children's entertainer at St Anne's Community Centre and a family fun day, joined by Crusty the Pie at St Andrew's School. This was the first time we'd used the school, and it was so great to have use of the school facilities—so much space to play together.

Playbox

At the end of July, the Playbox arrived at Beech Hill Play Park on Gidlow Lane, and we had two weeks of amazing play. A shipping container full of equipment to play with in the park.

It was so much fun, and now there's a real interest in having a permanent Playbox in the park.

Ava, one of the young people who came to the Playbox most days, said, "It brought the park to life." Her friends Alyse and Alexa said,

"It made the park a real joyful place."

So many parents were surprised that their kids joined in, especially some of the older

boys, and it was great to see all the adults playing, too.

Diggle St Park

Once we sadly waved goodbye to the Playbox, the community play rangers moved over to Diggle St Park for an out of this world space play day complete with space crafts, egg rockets, planes, games and an inflatable assault course.

St Andrew's & St Anne's

Next stop was a day at St Andrew's school. Such a busy fun-filled day with lots of crafts, treasure trails and games.

The UV party at St Anne's more or less wrapped the summer up.





COMMUNITY PLAY

Crocky Trail

All's that was left was a trip to Crocky Trail as a reward to all the parents and families who got stuck in and contributed to community play.

51 one of us had a really enjoyable day, thanks to the financial support from Phyll Cullen and the Brighter Boroughs Fund.

Chester Zoo

We weren't the only ones taking trips out of town this summer. Friends of Beech Hill took two coaches full of families to Chester Zoo for their annual



CROCKY TRAIL

Chase Foundation.

So many families said it really helped to have free local activities enabling children



CHESTER 100

and families to play together and with each other over the summer.

outing. What a great summer we had. And all at no financial cost to families, with sometimes lunch included, thanks to support from the Holiday Activity Fund, Awards for All and the Lankelly

The community play rangers are busy planning October half term fun.

There'll be Halloween lantern making and a community walk on the 24th of October and a play day at St Andrew's School on the 26th of October.

We've also a children's toy sale on Wednesday 25th at St Andrew's Parish Centre.

This is an opportunity for children to sell no longer needed toys to other children.

If you want to keep up to date with family and children's activities and aren't a member of the Facebook group, you can join the Whatsapp group. See details at the back of the magazine.

The Family Craft Club



The family craft club grew out of women sharing their love of craft and talking about how they loved crafting with their children and grandchildren.

The outside space at St Anne's Community Centre is also available for children to play in and use, and the children have made things like bird feeders for the garden whilst enjoying eating the strawberries and peas in pods that grow there.

Children of any age are welcome as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

The plan is to keep things free as times are tough enough

for many. Tea and coffee are available for 20p, and there's a small snack and drink for the children. It's run on a donation basis.

The club has had some support from Brighter Borough, and Brenda also successfully pitched at the last community cash for some art materials.

Annie's Pantry provides bread for toast, and Ben of Community ToolMates made some insect houses for the children to decorate and dot around the garden. It's a real community affair.

The Family Craft Club runs from 3pm to 5pm every Tuesday during term time.



"There are lots of activities around for children who want to do sports and little for those who want to get crafty and creative. That's what the craft club is for.

Bringing families together for some quality time and let their imaginations run wild. Doing things that perhaps they might not get to do together at home."

BRENDA



SEASONAL GARDEN TIPS

Sow Salad leaves You can still grow salads in autumn, and they're easily grown in containers.

Plant Trees Bare root trees and hedges are often low cost and this time of year onwards is perfect to plant.

Plant bulbs Spring bulbs will give you a beautiful display and will help to early pollinators. Snake's head fritillary, crocus

and muscari are great. We offer free bulbs, just get in touch.

Bird Food Encourage birds with a regularly topped-up bird feeder.

Falling Leaves You can ignore leaves if they're not bothering you, as they provide shelter and protection for wildlife. You can also collect them to create a leaf mulch pile - it'll rot down and be amazing to use in the garden.

Trim Hedges All baby birds have fledged, so now is a good time for a trim.

Add Mulch If you're struggling with your soil, then adding a layer of mulch onto your

borders will help replenish it for spring.

Even if soil is ok, it'll boost your plants and help protect them over winter.

Create a wildflower meadow

Now is a good time to sow wildflower seeds if you want a cottage garden feel that bees and butterflies love. We offer free seeds too!

Don't be too tidy Birds love seed heads so don't be too quick to chop. Insects also shelter in old stems over winter. You can also keep the lawn longer if you're not using it so much.

Feature: St Andrew's

Jean received a double award at the Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow Annual Community Awards this year.

Jean was nominated as a Community Connector and the Parish Centre she loves and gifts much of her time to, St Andrew's, was nominated as a Place of Welcome.

Angela caught up with Jean to ask her a few questions.

So, Jean, what did you think about the nominations you received?

Lovely. Amazing. Never expected anything, a nice surprise. Although I have done a lot of volunteer work all my life (I'm 74 till January), not many people know exactly what I do.

What's the story then? How did you become involved in St Andrew's Parish Centre?

Initially, I was secretary of the Friends of St Andrew's school and did a lot of organising and fundraising for the school during Mr Rees' time as headmaster. And I worked in school as an additional learning assistant.

I left because my husband had two heart attacks. But later, I found myself taking on the Social Committee at church and switched my volunteering and fundraising to St Andrew's Church. I have to say, though, even as a child, we used to Carol sing or do raffles and give the money to church. So it's in my DNA.

The Parish Centre - I was conned by Rev Colin Hurst! Lol. The secretary, treasurer/leasing officer left suddenly, and I was



persuaded to help out till a replacement could be found, as was Sandra.

Well, that was in 2008, and we are both still at it in 2023. Everyone thinks we do a good job, so no one wants to replace us! Sandra is the treasurer, and I'm the leasing officer/ secretary. All voluntary, of course. I don't think people realise that. That what we do is in our own time, and we are not paid.

What's happening now that you really love?

Again, I love lots of things. The Friendship Circle came about because the lady who ran the Ladies Fellowship died, and no one took it over. So I had a word with my friend, Irene and the Friendship Circle was born. I wanted to do something to 'give back' to the older generation as they had always provided for us when we were young. They had kept the church going. And I wanted it to be a social event costing as little as possible. We've been doing it for a few years now, and they love it.

What are your hopes for the future?

I find this hard to answer as, at my age, I don't think about the future; I live each day as it comes. My husband died 4 years ago, and I'm still living in the past. Although my 4 children keep

pushing me forward into the 21st century. And my grandchildren keep me young. I guess I hope I can continue helping people and organising events forever.

Is there anything I've not asked that you'd like to say?

Well, the only other thing I can think of is I like knitting, sewing, arts and crafts, writing, as you can see, among other things. So when Sandra asks for help making things, I do my best to help. Like knitting angels for the school children, knitting ducks to be given out at Easter, knitting poppies to help the veterans and making craft things for the playdays like the salt dough teddies and paper butterflies. It's all good fun. And when we're not doing these, we enjoy raising money for charities once a month on the last Friday. That is hard work but worth it.

I'm organising another Christmas Fayre this year on November 11th in the church from 10 am - 2 pm. These are usually a huge success, bringing in much-needed money for church and lots of fun and joy to visitors, especially the children. We have lots of amusements for them, including Santa Claus. It's truly a big social event.

Oh yes, I almost forgot about the pantomimes. I've been involved in a few. Meg Smethurst was our director, and Ken Rees was the Dame. I played his sidekick, such as Idle Jack, Wishee Washee, Silly Sally, and many more. I loved performing for all the children. I would willingly do another, but sadly, most of our players have passed. We ran for 5 nights. Not sure I could still do that, though.

Thank you, Jean, for sharing.

Would we like to see a community pantomime again? Oh yes, we would!

Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Tea is fast becoming a much-loved tradition in this community and spreading all over the place.

The CommUnity Afternoon Tea started in March, and the third Afternoon tea was held in September with local girl Lauren Waterworth entertaining us and Lawrence Smith calling the bingo.

Sam hatched the idea. Sam missed her grandparents dearly and missed the company of older people. 'They are so wise, and I just like to listen to them'.

Sam also loves to see older people letting their hair down and having a great time. It didn't take her long to find other people who liked the idea of afternoon tea, and between them, they had all the skills to make it happen.

Sonia waited on at all three of the afternoon teas. She said, "I love it. I like helping out and having a laugh. Otherwise, I'd just be at home. If it weren't for Lisa dragging me in." And you can bet your last Penny; you'll find Sonia up on the dance floor to Penny Arcade.



In September, we had our first male waiter, Mervyn, request to join the team. And we have to say, he's a dab hand at washing up.

A lot of work is involved in getting everything ready and making the place look fancy. It's so worth it, once you see people up on the dancefloor smiling, laughing, and dancing their cares away. Husbands and wives, grandparents and grandchildren all dancing together. It's really special. No wonder the tickets are selling out on the day they become available.

We have a Christmas themed Afternoon Tea planned for Wednesday 13th December from 12.30-2.30pm.

Tickets are £5 each and include afternoon tea, live entertainment, bingo, raffle and



a good laugh. Tea and coffee are included, and guests are welcome to bring their own alcohol (and glass!).

Tickets are available from 8th November at Coffee Morning or by contacting Gill on 07703574387.



Feature: Community ToolMates

You may remember in the last edition of Ey Up; we covered the spaces we'd created for women in the community, along with an invitation to support any men wanting to get together with other men for mutual and peer support.

Well, Ben accepted the invitation, and in September, he started Community ToolMates.

Angela caught up with Ben to ask him a few questions.

What made you want to do this, Ben?

I first became involved in the community so I could help, in some small way, to improve our community.

I have always been a believer in individuals supporting each other and that everyone has something to offer, no matter how small. This can help build a stronger community.

What are your hopes for Community ToolMates?

I have started the group to bring men in our area together with the aim of doing good work that can be both physically and mentally rewarding.

The aim of the group will be to complete tasks that will improve local communal areas and support other community groups, such as clearing paths around 'The Valley' and woodwork jobs in the community garden.

If people come along, what can they expect?

There will be tasks for all skill and ability level, you can bring your expertise or come and learn a new skill.

What do they need to bring?

All tools and a drink will be provided. Just bring yourself along.

Community ToolMates is every other Thursday from 28th Sept at 9am, and the last Sunday of the month from 12pm.

Join the Whatsapp Group for updates or contact Ben on 07541 680 163

Community ToolMates

For Men - Outdoors - Support Community
Learn Skills - Share Knowledge
Support Each Other
Physical and Mental Activity

New informal mens group, working on a variety of community jobs

Join us for a friendly brew and a chat while doing some good in the fresh air

Woodwork, building, digging, painting, clearing paths and more, suitable for any age & skill level. Tools provided

28th Sept,
12th, 26th,
29th Oct

Every other Thursday from 9am & last Sunday of the month from 12pm

St Anne's Community Garden
Beech Hill Ave., Wigan
WN6 7TA



For more info contact Ben on 07541 680 163

Join our Community ToolMates Whatsapp Group for updates



Kids in Charge

In June, some young people at Beech Hill Primary School worked alongside Media Cubs to create their own media content around what community means to them.

Over the space of a few weeks, the Year 6 students had the opportunity to learn about the different roles within the media, from researchers to presenters. They got hands-on with equipment, learning how to use a green screen, cameras and props.

Then, it was all down to them to design, develop and create the content, including interviewing some community local stars.

Here's some of what the young people said during the 6-minute self-directed video they created. 'In our community, we accept everyone for what they love.' 'In our community, we all take a part; if we all came together no

matter who we are, we can solve these problems, even though they are hard.'

They also spoke about what they wanted to see in the future; including lower energy prices, more gardening to protect the bees, and more sports and play equipment. They sound like they have it all figured out to me!

During the film's premier, parents and carers were invited to a special screening at school before it went live on our Youtube channel @SBHGCom. It really is a wonderful short watch!

We hope we can bring Media Cubs back so more children can have an experience of what working in the Media is like, and maybe even in our next edition, we can have the young people writing their own community content.

If you think this is something a young person you know may be interested in, get in touch. Having our little news crew for the area would be great!



Women's Network

In March, a new network was created for women who might like to share skills and food with each other.



There was a launch event at Fur Clemt to mark International Women's Day, and some of the members got together in August at Sunshine House.

It was fantastic to be joined by women from ZIWO - Zimbabwean Womens Network who are also friends of Klaris, who lives in Scholes, a member of the Wigan Womens Network. We had a lovely time together, sharing skills and food.

If you'd like to know more about the network and be invited to future events, then you can find out more on the ReMade Wigan website remadewigan.co.uk

If you prefer to stay very local, we have two dedicated spaces for women in the community.

Every Tuesday morning, when the kids are at school, women get together to be creative at Make It Mine.

This takes place at St Anne's Community Centre between 9.30-11.30 and is free to attend.

Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a women's and young girls' FoodShare between 7-9pm. Women take it in turns to bring food and to be fed, and it really doesn't matter what you bring.

This space was nominated as a Place of Welcome in the most recent Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow Community Awards, as it offers any newcomer a big smile on arrival.

It takes place at BookCycle and is free to attend. Just bring you, and sometimes food!



Kay's Cancer Care

Kays Cancer Care is a friendly meet up for anyone affected by cancer.

If you know anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer, or is in need of a support group to help aid their recovery – let them know that sessions run every Thursday 10.30am – 12.

Please come and join other survivors and have some fun and let me show you there is life after cancer treatment.

The short sessions will focus on supporting you through your diagnosis, treatment, recovery and beyond.

Group discussions, and one-to-one counselling sessions are available.

The Cost is £2 per session and refreshments are served.

Search for Kay's Cancer Care on Facebook.



Annie's Pantry & Café

AT ST ANNE'S

Every Monday
12pm – 2pm



Membership for the pantry is only £5 per year and it's £3 a shop for 15 items

St Anne's Community Centre,
Beech Hill Avenue, WN6 7TA

Do you know who the elected councillors are for Wigan West and how to contact them?

Phyll is a long standing local councillor and has been representing the area since 2007. Sheila and Dave were newly elected this year and Dave lives in the ward. Sheila is well known as the President of the Wigan Local History and Heritage Society. Before retirement Dave worked as a Social Worker in a variety of different roles and settings.



Cllr Sheila Ramsdale

(Labour & Co-op)
07596 595552

Sheila.Ramsdale@wigan.gov.uk

Surgery: BookCycle
2nd Wednesday of the month



Cllr David Wood

(Labour & Co-op)
07855 002583

David.Wood@wigan.gov.uk

Surgery: BookCycle
4th Wednesday of the month
1 – 2pm



Cllr Phyll Cullen

(Labour)
01942 736257

P.Cullen@wigan.gov.uk

Councillor Phyll Cullen
will meet with you at your
convenience

Susan's Sunflowers

There's nothing like a sunflower to brighten up the area and make people smile. That certainly was one community member's idea when she decided to offer sunflower seeds out.

Rachel came to the community party in May with a big bag full of seeds.

Any that were left were distributed within the community groups.

Susan, a regular at Make it Mine and the Coffee Morning, was really up to the challenge, growing some beautiful blooms in the garden.

What a great idea to make people smile!



LOCAL ADVERTS

WINDOW PAINTING
ADD SOME SPARKLE TO YOUR WINDOWS THIS SEASON.
from £50 per window (4ftx4ft)
DESIGNS INCLUDED JUST *illustrate*

The advertisement features two arched windows with festive winter-themed decorations. The left window shows a snowy landscape with a house and a tree, while the right window shows a similar scene with a different design.

UKSOC
Jackie's CEREMONIES
Funeral & Family Celebrant
FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, VOW RENEWALS, BESPOKE LGBTQ+ CEREMONIES, BABY NAMING & GENDER REVEAL CEREMONIES, DIVORCE CEREMONIES, PET CEREMONIES, BESPOKE CEREMONIES.
'A ceremony will be created for whatever occasion you would like. And you can trust that with each ceremony conducted, will be bespoke and written beautifully.'
I'm a member of the UK's Society of Celebrants.
Jackie Atkinson
CONTACT ME
(+44) 7361 868 831 jackiesceremonies.co.uk

The advertisement has a purple and blue background with a starry pattern. It features the Jackie's Ceremonies logo at the top, which includes a butterfly and the text 'UKSOC'.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS AUTUMN

MONDAYS

Tea, biscuits and chat
BREW & BISCUIT
Bird'th Hand (Hen Hole)

1pm - 3pm

TUESDAYS

A womens only space with Re-Made Wigan CIC. Get crafty and hands on trying new things. Kettle on from 9am (term time only)

MAKE IT MINE
St Anne's Community Centre

9.30am - 11:30am

An opportunity for all the family to get creative together, the ideal after school activity without the mess at home (term time only)

FAMILY CRAFT CLUB
St Anne's Community Centre

3:30pm - 5pm

WEDNESDAYS

Work together in the Community Garden with Victoria. Every other Wednesday from 4th October and last Sunday of every month from midday. Family & beginner friendly

GARDENING GET TOGETHERS
St Anne's Community Garden

9.45am

A beginners exercise class for people who don't enjoy traditional fitness classes. Come along as we laugh and move our way through some energising tunes

HULA HOOP & DANCE - BEGINNERS
St Anne's Community Centre

9am - 10am

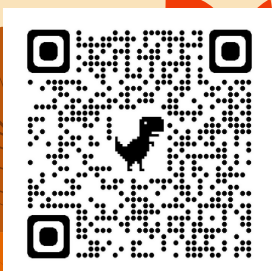
A women's evening space once a month to bring and share food in each other's company. On the 3rd Wednesday of each month

FOOD SHARE
The BookCycle Cabin

7-9pm

THURSDAYS

These are the free community spaces that are supported by the community group. You'll find the full range of local activities on the website. Scan the QR code below



Drop in for a chat, a coffee and some crafts. Lovely space with a warm welcome to everyone

COFFEE MORNING
Beech Hill Primary School Hub, Netherby Road

9am - 12pm

New men's group bringing together people to do hands on work for community projects. Every other Thursday 12th October and the last Sunday of the month from 12pm

COMMUNITY TOOLMATES
St Anne's Community Garden

9am - 12pm

Have your Say

Be in with a chance of winning a £50 voucher of your choice by completing the online survey.

We want to know what you honestly think about being part of the Beech Hill, Springfield & Gidlow CommUnity.

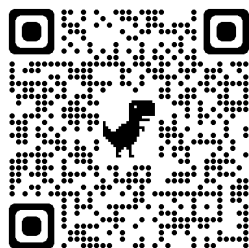
For the past 3 and a bit years, we've been trying to grow a more connected community and make the area the best it can be. Last year, we invited people to complete a survey through Facebook about life around here. We're hoping this year, even more people will have their say. We want to know what's going well. What could we do more of or do better together?

This survey is open from 10th October until 30th November. We'll announce the winner at the beginning of December so that the winner can receive the voucher in time for Christmas.

We will share the results of this questionnaire in our next edition of Ey Up! it's Wigan West Community News.

If you want to talk to someone about this survey, you can email Angela and Gill at nheartandsoul@gmail.com

Scan the code with your phone camera to open the survey.



This magazine has been made possible due to financial support from Awards for All, Northern Heart and Soul CiC, a local business that wants to see this neighbourhood grow, and three of our local Cllrs and the Brighter Boroughs Fund.

This edition has been brought to you by Gill, Angela and Victoria, and you can see some of the other members of the organising group below.

If you'd like to write an article or share a story in future editions, do get in touch



ANGELA



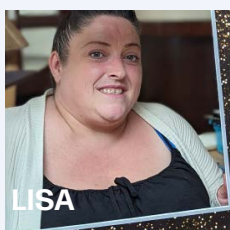
GILL



VICTORIA



PHIL



LISA



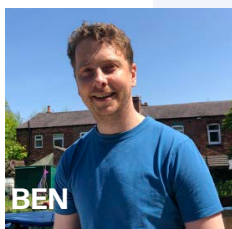
VICKY



MERVYN



JO



BEN



SANDRA

Stay in Touch

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of Ey Up!

There are a number of ways that you can keep in touch.

Join the Facebook Group - [Springfield, Beech Hill and Gidlow CommUnity](#)

Join the community association through the website sbhcommunity.co.uk

Keep an eye on the community notice boards for events.

Email us at sbhg.community@gmail.com

Text or phone
07845 872379

Join our WhatsApp community, just scan the QR code below



Useful Contacts

Here's some numbers and organisations that are useful to have in case you ever need them. If you're not sure what to do you can always ask a neighbour or contact the community group first for a bit of moral support.

CITIZENS ADVICE WIGAN

Tel: 01942 709 709
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)
For Universal Credit support:
0800 144 8444

WELFARE SUPPORT

Tel: 01942 705 221
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)
Apply online: gmpa.link/WelfareSupport

WIGAN WELFARE RIGHTS

Tel: 01942 705 221
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)
wigan.gov.uk/localwelfaresupport

AWARM

Apply online: gmpa.link/AWARM
Tel: 01942 404 261
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)

SUPPORT FOR WIGAN ARRIVALS PROJECT

Tel: 01942 516 572 (Mon to Thu,
10am to 4.30pm)
swapwigan.org

AGE 50+ SUPPORT

Age UK Wigan Borough
01942 615 880

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Wigan Borough Domestic Abuse
Service
01942 311 365

DRUG AND ALCOHOL

We are With You charity
01942 827 979

GAMBLING

Beacon Counselling Trust
0151 226 0696

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Crisis Line
0800 953 0285 (Open 24h)

Think Wellbeing
01942 764 449

Venue Contact Details

ST ANNE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

152 Beech Hill Avenue,
Wigan
WN6 7TA
01942 825183

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CENTRE

120 Woodhouse Lane,
Wigan
WN6 7LZ

BOOK-CYCLE BEECH HILL

Buckley St West,
Wigan
WN6 7PQ
01942 747750

BIRD ITH HAND

100-102 Gidlow Lane,
Wigan
WN6 7DY
01942 230161

WELLFIELD HOTEL

75 Wellfield Road,
Wigan
WN6 8NQ
01942 539511

