

## Successes on fight against crime

**Crime in St James' and Waterhead continues to be an issue that is important to lots of local people. The Council is working in partnership with the Police and others to try and bring crime levels down. Some types of crime are reducing while others need further effort to prevent.**

There have been 1,339 fewer victims of crime in Oldham between the start of April and the end of September this year compared to last year.

The biggest impact has been on vehicle crime, which has seen a reduction of 24 per cent, followed by violence against the person, which has been reduced by 17 per cent. Police have also had success in reducing other types of crime, with burglary, robbery and criminal damage all decreasing.

Locally in the St James' and Waterhead area there was only a slight increase in recorded burglaries in the three months to the end of September, compared with the previous three months. Encouragingly, compared to the same period last year, there has been an overall decrease in burglary.

More work also needs doing on thefts from vehicles in our area.

Other areas of good news were that the number of criminal damage incidents in St James' and Waterhead fell from 173 to 153, and the number of minor wounding also fell. Arson incidents fell from five to three.

Superintendent Mark Powell from Oldham Police said: "We are delighted with these latest figures which show that we are successfully bringing down crime in Oldham, making the Borough a safer place.

"Getting the support of local people by concentrating on crimes that affect them the most, working in partnership with a wide range of agencies to jointly reduce crime, and targeting known offenders have all worked to reduce crime."

The Council and Police continue to work with local people to make St James' and Waterhead a safer place. If you see anything suspicious please contact the Police on 0161 872 5050 or give details anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Tell us...

Is there other service performance information you would like to receive? Then please tell us by contacting the Area Managers team on 0161 770 5193 or [area.managers@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:area.managers@oldham.gov.uk)

## Friday Night Crew

Greenacres Youth Inclusion Project has been running a group called the Friday Night Crew since September. The sessions run from 6pm until 9pm at the Youth Improvement Project Centre on Greenacres Road. The Friday Night Crew is open to any young person in the area aged between 11 and 17 years old. There has been a great response to this new group. There's a wide range of activities available such as pool, table football, play station games and there are also free snacks and drinks. Why not come along and have some fun.

This newsletter can be made available in other formats, for example Braille, audio, large print or in alternative languages. To access these please call 0161 770 4707.

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# St James' & Waterhead Local Matters

St James' & Waterhead Community Council newsletter for local residents is published by Oldham Council and partners

## ANOTHER GREEN FLAG FOR STONELEIGH PARK

**Stoneleigh Park in Derker has just received yet another Green Flag – the seventh in as many years. Stoneleigh was the first park in Oldham to receive this prestigious award and has been followed by six others around the Borough.**

unprecedented and long may this success continue."

If any residents of Derker are interested in joining the Friends of Stoneleigh Park group, please contact Councillor Stanton on 0161 624 0173 or email [jackie.stanton@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.stanton@oldham.gov.uk)

St. James' Ward Councillors, Roger Hindle, Jackie Stanton and Jim McArdle, welcome this continued success and congratulate everyone connected with this achievement.

Councillor Hindle said: "This is a tremendous achievement for the Parks Department and all its staff and the local residents who, through the Friends of Stoneleigh Park group, have worked extremely hard over the past 10 years to bring the park back use and the green flag is down to their dedication."

Councillor Stanton added: "Being awarded the seventh green flag is



## You said...

At the last meeting of the Community Council a number of issues were raised. These included: Concern regarding the alley at the back of Hodge Clough Junior School. There were complaints that the shop fronts on Ripponden Road were litter strewn. It was reported that trees on Wellyhole Street needed attention. There was a request for bollards on Ripponden Road. There were major concerns about sale of alcohol to minors in the area.

There was a request for traffic calming on Pearly Bank and Sholver Lane. Residents claimed that the Dispersal Order for young people was not advertised appropriately. Concerns about speeding and the abuse of zig zag lines outside Counthill School.

## We did...

What you said at the Community Council meeting was relayed to the Council's Directorates and partner agencies concerned and so far the following action has been taken: The Community Safety Unit agreed to look into it issues around the alley at the back of Hodge Clough Junior School. The 'Dandyman' patrols along Ripponden Road have been increased to three times a week, which has improved the litter situation.

Environmental Services are to inspect the trees on Wellyhole Street and take necessary action. Bollards have been erected on the kerb at the Co-op on Ripponden Road. Trading Standards Officers will attend the next Community Council meeting to give details of the work they do to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors.

Traffic and Transportation Section will be investigating for traffic calming measures around Pearly Bank and Sholver Lane. Local young people have been commissioned to design a poster about the Dispersal Order, which will go on lamp columns. The Council's Parking Manager and Greater Manchester Police have been requested to increase enforcement around Counthill School.

## Coming up at the next meeting...

Come along to the next Community Council meeting, share a mince pie or two with your local councillors and get involved in shaping services in your area.

Tell us what roads in your area need repair work, discover what Trading Standards is doing and ask questions, find out about land use and how Age Concern can help the less mobile people in the area.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6 December from 6.15pm, Elim Foursquare Church, Greenacres Road, Oldham.

## Don't make it a merry Christmas for burglars

At this time of year people are preparing for a great family Christmas. Our homes are filled with expensive items such as Xboxes, Playstations, cameras and new televisions. We can make burglars' jobs more difficult just by following the common sense tips listed below.

- Don't leave your gifts on display this Christmas, when out shopping, lock them in the car boot. At home put them away and don't leave them under the tree where burglars can spot them.
- After Christmas take all your boxes to a recycling centre, don't leave them around to advertise what presents Santa brought you.
- Don't leave windows and doors unlocked
- Don't leave your keys in the locks inside your home
- Don't forget to set your alarm both in the day and at night while you are sleeping
- Shred all credit card receipts to avoid identity theft

Have a safe and merry Christmas from the Community Safety Unit!

## Home shopping service

The Home Shopping Service based at the Co-op store in Lees now has a new refrigerated van as part of its service. The van was part funded by the Co-op's Community Development Foundation. The service is available to older people who cannot shop for themselves and is also provided on a short-term basis to people recovering from illness or a spell in hospital. Age Concern Oldham, in partnership with the Council's Adult and Community Services Directorate, has run the service since July 2006.

Referrals for the home shopping service are encouraged from a wide range of partners and by self-referral. The team currently takes orders from clients over the phone, does the shopping for them, delivers it the following day and will put people's shopping away for them if required. For more information about the service contact 0161 665 0283.

## Events at the Greenacres Community Centre

**NEW Over 50s get fit to keep fit** - FREE! Sat 11am - 12noon followed by a light lunch.

**NEW Aerobics for the brain** - FREE! Weds 12.30pm - 1.30pm. Creche facilities are available.

**Bingo** Mon 1.30 - 3.30pm, call 0161 652 0095.

**ACF pantomime** Fri 21 Dec - Captain Hooks Revenge, call Amanda on 07899946594.

**ACF Children & Young Peoples Show** Sat 22 Dec, with community carol singing, coffee & mince pies. Call 07899946594 or 0161 652 0095.

**Community pantomime rehearsals** have started, if you fancy treading the boards come along to at Greenacres Community Centre on Fri nights at 7.45pm. Call Betty on 01457 870559.

**Young peoples drama group** Fri 6pm - 7.30pm at Greenacres Community Centre. Call 07899946594.

There are stacks more things going on in the Community Centre ring 0161 652 0095 for details.

## Leaving Oldham

At the last Community Council meeting Area Manager, Karen Macdonald, (pictured here with Councillor Hindle) was praised by councillors for all her work in the area and wished her well in her new job as Neighbourhood Manager in Salford. Mark Simmons will be taking over as Area Manager for East Oldham. Mark can be contacted on 0161 770 5193.

# BEATSWEEP

Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale set to work coordinating the Clarksfield Beatsweep in October. The Beatsweep was a great success and involved the Police, Fire Service, Oldham Council and the Probation Service.



Successes of the week included seizing nine vehicles for having no insurance and one person was arrested for driving whilst disqualified and associated offences. There were high visibility patrols by PCSOs and the mobile police unit was also in the area.

Trading Standards officers seized 70 illegal fireworks from an unregistered firework retailer. Seven hundred firework safety leaflets were given to local schools and the Fire Service carried out 140 home fire risk assessments.

The Council's Street Scene staff, along with help from Groundwork and the probation Service, cleared over 45 tonnes of litter, rubbish and fly tipping.

Homewatch coordinator and Clarksfield resident, Ted Witczak, said: "We're so grateful that these organisations have made a start clearing the back alleyways of litter and weeds. We are currently putting together an application to apply for funds from Awards for All so that we can create an attractive open space in our alleyway. Hopefully, other residents in the area will do the same."

